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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Data omissions mar US Navy's analysis of groundwater impact

» EPA: Navy did not address no munitions-leaching

» Limited evidence demonstrate lack of compliance with federal laws

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Navy has neglected to discuss in their environmental impact documents ready-available data suggesting genuine and proven threats to munitions contaminants leaching into surface or groundwater on Tinian, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency confirmed yesterday.

See DATA on Page 4

Ground Breaking Ceremony
for the Construction of Public Facility at Unai Dankulo Beach
E-land Group / Coral Ocean Golf Resort
28 July 2015
Coral Ocean Golf Resort

BREAKING GROUND JAYSON CAMACHO

E Lands Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Matthew Park, third from right, was joined by CNMI leaders yesterday morning for a groundbreaking ceremony for the rehabilitation of a public facility at Unai Dangkulo Beach at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. It includes the construction of a new access road, an additional pavilion, and a new public parking lot.

Cape Air will fly two planes now

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cape Air/United will now fly two planes on its Guam to CNMI route, the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

In a Facebook post, Sablan announced that a second Cape Air/United airplane arrived on Saipan Monday afternoon and will take about a week before it flew. Cape and United Airlines are code share partners for the Guam-CNMI route.

He said Cape Air would have two airplanes to service the Northern Marianas-Guam route.

Near press time yesterday, the Commonwealth Ports Authority confirmed

See CAPE on Page 4

Judge Camacho acquits Barcinas couple

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho acquitted yesterday former Rota Procurement officer Rowena Barcinas and her husband, retired police officer Andrew Barcinas, of all four charges in connection with the alleged stealing of a government's vehicle.

During the second day of bench trial on Rota, Camacho granted defense counsels Steven Pixley's and assistant public defender Matthew Meyer's motion to acquit the Barcinas couple.

Camacho determined that the government has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Rowena and Andrew Barcinas are guilty of the crimes of theft of vehicle and restriction upon use of government vehicles.

"Mr. Andrew Barcinas and Mrs. Rowena Barcinas you are free to go," the judge told the couple during the trial packed with defendants' family members and friends.

See JUDGE on Page 4

Andrew Barcinas

Rowena Barcinas

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Fiat Chrysler could be required to lay out hundreds of millions of dollars to get potentially defective Ram pickups and older Jeeps off the road.

» PAGE 14

WORLD

Turkey and the United States have agreed on the outlines of a plan to rout the Islamic State group from a strip of Syrian territory along the Turkish border.

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LIFE & STYLE

R&B singer Bobby Brown said Monday that his daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, was "an angel" and that the family must find a way to honor her memory.

» PAGE 19

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Local

IN AFTERMATH OF HUGE 'ICE' BUST

Torres supports more funding for Customs

BY JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres is supporting the call to give more funding to law enforcement agencies particularly the Division of Customs in light of a massive drug bust that Customs successfully conducted.

In a press conference on Monday on Capital Hill, Customs director Joe Mafnas disclosed that agents were able to intercept approximately 12 kilos (23.5 lbs) of methamphetamine or "ice" which has an estimated value of $4.2 million.

"This (the drug bust) makes it more reasonable for us to give the Customs more tools to prevent drugs from coming in the CNMI," Torres said.

He said the drug bust was "very critical" considering the huge amount of drugs involved.

As for the additional funding for the Customs, Torres said "we are looking at it" particularly a big X-ray machine that the division needs.

"We will find funding for it," Torres said, noting that he will soon sit down with members of the Legislature on the funding concern.

Mafnas said in his more than 20 years in law enforcement, this is "largest crystal meth intercepted" in the CNMI.

"Like I always said, we need to choke this at the point of entry. We choked it, stopped it, so 23 lbs of crystal meth will not make it to the streets," Mafnas said.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero referred to the massive drug bust as the "mother of all mother lodes."

He said he is "very happy" that DPS will "not collect" this amount of drugs on the CNMI.

Like Torres, the police chief also said he supports more funding for the Customs, as well as for other law enforcement agencies.

Earlier, Mafnas said the division badly needs agents, particularly during this time that the entry of illegal drugs into the CNMI is increasing at an alarming rate.

Mafnas, however, clarified that the Finance secretary is "very supportive" of the needs of the division. Mafnas is asking for 18 more personnel to add to the 46 staff currently manning the Customs Division.

He also emphasized the need for more equipment, including a large X-ray machine.

Demapan to introduce bill to amend 'casino law'

Rep. Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) is set to introduce next week a proposed legislation to amend Public Law 18-56 or the casino law.

Demapan did not disclose details, saying only that the amendments he plans to introduce are aimed at "helping the regulators."

"There are some amendments on licensing and other concerns. We hope to help the commission," Demapan said.

Demapan

Demapan is apparently referring to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, which recently decided to grant an authorization to Best Sunshine International Limited to open a temporary casino on Garapan at the T-Galleria.

Commissioners earlier hinted that there will have to be amendments to P.L. 18-56, as the body continues to work on its final regulations.

Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero earlier said another possible amendment of P.L 18-56 is on employment. Persons with criminal records are not allowed to be employed at the gaming industry, at least on Saipan.

Deleon Guerrero, however, said there might be non-gaming related jobs that the casino license holder can provide for these type of applicants.

Last Friday, commission gave the "go" signal to BSI to open its "live" gaming facility at the T-Galleria.

For now, the regulators will allow BSI to use its own "internal controls" while the commission completes its final regulations.

One of the key components of internal controls is tracking down the money generated by the casino on a regular basis.

Members of the casino commission have also agreed to work on shifts, while hiring for more staff continues.

BSI opened the doors of its casino on Sunday mid-noon, becoming the very first casino on Saipan.

According to BSI CEO Mark A. Brown, it was a "soft opening" with only six gaming tables offering baccarat, a card game favored by Chinese players.

But Brown said "it was a very good turnout for all of us" and that he had to add three more tables to be opened.

Some 30 locals are "tapped in" as dealers, Brown added.

According to Brown, some 150 local workers were deployed on the first day of the casino, handling the casino's security, bar, and a snack lounge, among others. The casino commission gave approval for BSI to operate for 12 hours starting Sunday until Thursday. On Friday and Saturday, the casino will be open from 12pm to 2am. On Monday next week, the casino will operate for 24 hours. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

DPW Rota gets new vehicles as infra projects continue

Lawmakers from Rota lauded the efforts of the head of the Department of Public Works on securing new equipment, including two brand new pickup trucks, to be used for infrastructure projects on the island.

DPW Secretary James Ada showed the vehicles to lawmakers at Capital Hill on Tuesday. The vehicles will be assigned to DPW offices on Rota.

"Tinian will also get equipment and new vehicles as well," Ada said, adding that funding for the two vehicles—a total of $77,000—came from the department's solid waste "revolving" fund.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) said this is the "first time" that DPW Rota will get new vehicles.

"We appreciate the efforts of the DPW secretary. These vehicles will help get their projects going," Hocog said.

Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) also said this is the first time "in a decade" that DPW Rota will have new vehicles, and that he congratulates the DPW secretary for making this possible.

"We can use these equipment as we move forward with our landfill issues," Mesngon said.

Projects

Ada, meanwhile, said the DPW continues work on the resurfacing of the main highway in Rota.

He said he and other officials will be going to Rota on Aug. 18 and 19 in Rota for ocular inspections.

Ada said there is also a similar resurfacing project in Tinian, from the Tinian airport to Suicide Cliff.

"I said (in my nomination) that I am not going to promise anything to Tinian and Rota, but this is just the beginning," Ada said, adding that more equipment for solid waste management projects for both Tinian and Rota will also soon arrive. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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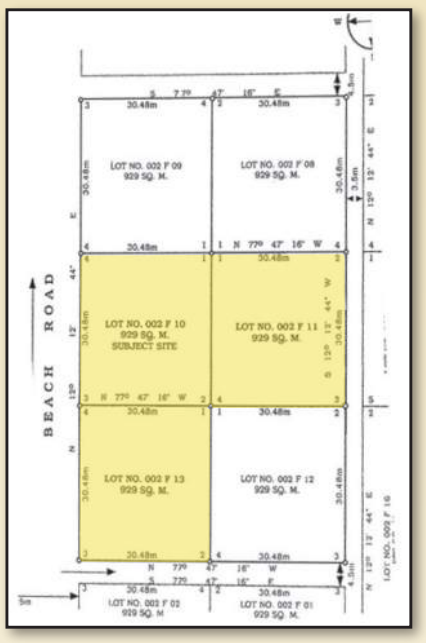
NOTICE OF SALE

CDA Building

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby announces the sale of its commercial real estate located in Oleai, Saipan to the highest bidder at the starting minimum bid of $2M.

The property consists of a three-story commercial building with an approximate gross rentable area of 18,000 square feet (600 sq. ft./per unit), gross building area of 24,888 square feet and a total land area of 2,787 square meters.



Terms and Condition of Sale

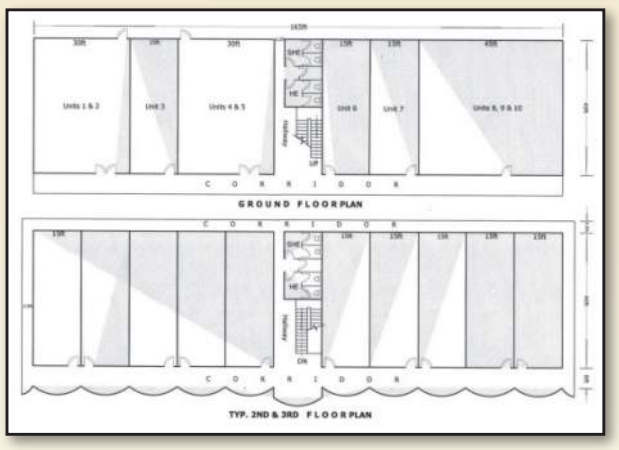
A. No Representation or Warranties. Property and its improvements are being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". Prospective Purchaser must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

B. Proposals should include the following:

1. Proposed Purchase Price (minimum $2M);
2. Identify payment option
   (a) Outright purchase – certified check only
   (b) Ground Lease Option to Purchase
   - Initial deposit of 10% non-refundable
   - Payment term on the balance should not exceed 6 months and will be charged 5% interest.

   (c) The name, address and telephone number of the contact person for the Proposed Purchaser.

C. Submission: All Prospective Purchasers are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal. The Property is available for a walk-through inspection by appointment only. Contact Christy Kintol, Office manager at ext. 310 or Oscar Camacho, Loan Manager at ext. 306 to schedule an appointment.



Proposals entitled **"OFFER TO PURCHASE – CDA BUILDING"** must be received by the CDA no later than 4:00 pm, **Friday, July 31, 2015** and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

The CDA reserves the right: **(1)** to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason **(2)** to accept or reject any and all proposals and **(3)** to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a purchaser.

TRANSITION PERIOD EXPECTED FOR NMC

Regents vote for 1-year renewal of Hart's contract

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents voted in open session last month for a one-year contract renewal for college president Dr. Sharon Hart, multiple board members confirmed with *Saipan Tribune*.

The board's decision on Hart's contract has remained unclear for almost a month as the college and the board chair has provided no concrete details on the contract when asked. On Monday, NMC board chair Juan T. Lizama said, "there was no vote to finalize the contract" during meeting in June.

Board regent Frank Rabauliman told *Saipan Tribune* in that meeting the Board of Regents adopted in open session a one-year contract for Hart.

He said details were discussed in executive session and referenced and adopted upon return to open sessions.

He said contract remains pending for execution but its "content" was already decided by the board.

Board regent Elizabeth Rechebei separately confirmed this.

"Yes, the board voted in open session (votes not allowed in executive session) on the one year contract extension with a vote of 4 to 1," she said in an email.

"I was there," she added.

Sought for comment at her NMC office, Hart disclosed she had not seen the contract yet and had not signed it. She said details were being tweaked and "close" to being finalized.

The average tenure for a college president at a college is four years. Hart has had her contract renewed twice already, each for two-year terms.

Hart said even if she was at the college for one or two years more "there has already been stable leadership."

She said one thing that she wanted in place before she would ever choose to transition from the college's stability. She said she feels she has really worked hard to ensure this.

"I went on record back about a month ago to say that my goal would be to not be here more than—truthfully one or two more years—so the board knows that, the board knows what I have wanted to accomplish for the Northern Marianas College."

"The first thing I wanted to do which is what I feel is what I have done is to position this institution to be in this top form and to prepared to be continuing on with our accreditation under WASC Senior" commission.

"If anything, I believe this institution is at the top it has been in many, many years," she said. The college in recent years was under "show-cause" status for their accreditation.

Hart said she was open to working with the board and college to ensure a "perfect transition."

"I hope the community will respect all of that," she said. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Man gets 3 months in jail for stealing over $19K in utility services

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio yesterday slapped a three-month prison term against Pete S. Taitano, a 52-year-old man who allegedly stole $19,522.06 in utility services from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Kim-Tenorio sentenced Taitano to two years in prison, all suspended except three months, for pleading guilty to a count of theft of utilities.

Taitano was ordered to pay $19,522.06 in restitution to CUC and a $300 fine.

Kim-Tenorio directed the Marshal Service Division to remand the defendant to the Department of Corrections to immediately start serving the prison sentence.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on three years of probation. He will be required to perform 300 hours of community work service. He was required to complete any recommended counseling by the Community Guidance Center.

According to the factual basis of the plea deal, on Feb. 23, 2011 to Aug. 23, 2014 on Saipan, Taitano used or received the direct benefit of all or a portion of utility services in the amount of $19,522.06 with knowledge that an unauthorized connection existed at the time of use.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Taitano. Assistant attorney general Clayton Graef represented the government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DATA

From Page 1

Local agencies and government consultants have been concerned with these data omissions.

They say the Navy's designations of "less than significant" impacts to water quality on Tinian must be changed.

One omitted study—an EPA study from 2012—covered a wide range of munitions chemicals and propellants left in the soils of over 30 military installations and firing ranges in the U.S., including Hawaii.

Another omitted study—from the U.S. Geological Survey—points out how Tinian's relatively porous limestone geology could be susceptible to pollution via infiltration.

These studies are readily available via Google Search.

Environmental Science Associates director Jim Keany told *Saipan Tribune* that the EPA paper also cites a number of very specific studies dealing with munitions, soil residues, and groundwater risk—but that the Navy cites none of these in their analysis of effects.

"The conclusions seem to be drawn to meet a vision," Keany said. ESA has been hired to review Navy impact documents.

When sought for comment, the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed that that they were aware of these data omissions within the "CNMI Joint Military Training" draft environmental impact statement.

"Yes, in general—in that they [the Navy] didn't really evaluate the impact from MCs [munitions constituents]," said public affairs officer Dean Higuchi, speaking on behalf of those in EPA working on the review of the EIS.

Higuchi confirmed that EPA would address the potential mobility and leaching of MCs into Tinian and Pagan groundwater in their official comments.

"We cannot say more at this time, as the comments are not final yet," Higuchi added.

Comments from the Marine Corp Force Pacific were not yet available as of press time.

Keany explains that the EPA report discusses their results by munitions range type—from hand grenade, to small arms, and bombing ranges.

For Tinian and Pagan, MARFORPAC would expend a "munitions quantities" of 114,681 for field artillery, mortar, rocket, and grenade training, according to a summary of use per year provided by ESA.

MARFORPAC proposes to expend 4,924,643 rounds of small arms to .50 caliber rounds per year. Maforpac also proposes to expend 176,000 total of air-delivered munitions. These include up to 1,000-lb bombs.

Keany said the 2012 EPA report looked at heavy metal residues in soils and in a few cases, in groundwater.

"The results show that there is a wide range of chemicals that are left in soil—many of which can be mobilized by rain and travel to groundwater. This is a particular concern because—as the USGS study notes—the karst limestone geology of the islands is relatively porous on Pagan and Tinian," Keany explained.

"The Navy also does not address destruction of duds or excess munitions that are discussed in the EPA report," he said.

The EPA report states: "Military EOD technicians use [open burn/open detonation] ranges at active [Department of Defense] training facilities to destroy duds of various munitions that are considered acceptable to move. Sometimes chunks of high explosive or unused propellants are also destroyed at these ranges by detonation or burning."

It also states: "As discussed in Clausen et al. (2007) perchlorate is rapidly dissolved, does not absorb to soil components, is largely recalcitrant, and thus it is highly mobile. The high solubility and ease of dissolution prevents persistent build-up in soil, but can potentially produce groundwater contamination."

"The general concern is that there will be a great deal of munitions spent annually both on Pagan and Tinian," Keany said. "From studies such as this EPA paper, and the ones cited in the paper, we know that a number of chemicals and heavy metals can accumulate in soil. Many can be mobilized by water. These mobilized chemicals can seep into the soils and because of the limestone geology o the islands, can easily make their way to the groundwater." The freshwater aquifer of Pagan and Tinian is a lens of freshwater that sits atop seawater.

Lack of baseline data

The Navy's impact documents also lack important information on the current state of Tinian's groundwater and the effects of any leftover chemicals from World War II. This information is important because it would provide a "baseline" from which regulatory agencies can compare in gauging the effects of the military's spent munitions.

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality is concerned with this lack of data—especially in regards to MCs and their byproducts.

"There is no baseline data with which to compare, or for [the Navy] to identify increasing contamination levels, and ultimately to react and remediate," BECQ said, in a summary of their EIS comments on water quality impacts.

"The [impact document] does not state whether or not they currently possess water quality data for munitions constituents, to compare to future levels, nor do they specify what MCs would be included in live and inert munitions."

"The [Navy] does not provide information regarding the model or method used to determine the chemical transport of MCs throughout the water bodies of the CNMI."

Keany said there could be already some chemical residue from World War II's extensive bombing and fighting on Tinian.

"It would be important to understand the current conditions to provide a full analysis of expected effects," he said. "There are thresholds for many chemicals in groundwater regarding human health and safety—but there is no such analysis in this Navy EIS."

"There is no way to evaluate the risk to human health and safety from the document or predict the risk to groundwater water contamination. No data has been presented even on the existing conditions of the groundwater and soil."

Keany said the Navy needs to:

■ Develop a sampling scheme for groundwater and soil to determine the baseline—using the suggested protocols in the 2012 EPA paper.

■ Use this EPA paper and other science documents to develop an analysis framework for predicting levels of soil contamination and risk to groundwater.

■ Analyze the information and have it peer reviewed by reputable scientist with relevant experience and knowledge.

■ Develop a long-term soil testing program and a protocol for cleanup of all munitions on an annual basis.

■ Develop a supplemental environmental impact statement that includes this information and allow agency and public comment.

Significant impact, not any less

Both Keany and BECQ disagree with the Navy's designation of "less than significant impacts" groundwater resources.

When asked if there were enough concerns to compel the Navy to raise their "less-than-significant" designation to "significant," Keany said, "Absolutely."

"Generally when analyzing such human health risks the professional approach is to err on the conservative side if there is no data. The Navy has done the opposite," he said.

These "significant" or "less than significant" designations concern legal definitions, *Saipan Tribune* learned—but what exactly is a significant impact as defined by National Environmental Policy Act and Council of Environmental Quality regulations are at issue. If something causes a significant impact—it has to be mitigated, lessened or rescaled, or eliminated under some circumstances.

Saipan Tribune learned that local agencies and government consultants have been tying their EIS review to other federal and local laws outside of NEPA like the Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act for instance would prevent proposed activities from polluting or contaminating water. And the Coastal Zone Management Act would prevent harm to coastal areas.

In a memorandum on the "Legal Adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement" for the CJMT project, Dentons—the firm hired to review this document—notes these failures of compliance with law.

"The [EIS] does not contain data and information necessary to demonstrate compliance with these requirements," Dentons said.

"On the contrary, the limited evidence presented in the document suggests that the CJMT would violate both federal and CNMI law," Dentons said.

BECQ, in their water quality comments, remind the Navy that the "CNMI owns the groundwater of Tinian" and if the Department of Defense would like to use it they "must apply for a permit and use it in accordance with CNMI law."

"Tinian is a sole-source aquifer system with limited fresh water availability, and the military has provided no evidence that impacts such as contamination, salt-water intrusion, or water shortage due to over-extraction" from military water wells "would not impact the southern aquifer system.

"Tinian residents already struggle to use groundwater resources sustainably, and any negative impacts to these resources due to proposed activities would have significant impacts to the population and the environment," BECQ said.

JUDGE

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned that after listening to Camacho's ruling, the defendants, their family members, and friends clapped and cheered as they hugged each other. They thanked defense lawyers Pixley and Meyer and even shook the hand of white-collar crime/public corruption prosecutor Matthew Baisley.

Baisley called six witnesses then rested the government's case. Pixley and Meyer then moved for judgment of acquittal.

Asked for comment about the not-guilty verdict, Pixley, counsel for Rowena Barcinas, said this was a case of extreme overreach by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Pixley said they arrested his client, Rowena Barcinas, then shackled her and put her on a flight to Saipan, where she spent the night in jail.

"This arrest was based upon a highly questionable investigation. Justice was served today," Pixley said.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get a comment from the government.

The Barcinas couple was arrested last April on charges of theft by unlawful taking or disposition, conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking or disposition, removal of government property, and receiving stolen property.

According to the OPA report, Mrs. Barcinas, as then Rota Procurement officer, allegedly used her position to manipulate the system into "surveying" several government vehicles on Rota.

One of the several government vehicles was Rota Finance's Jeep Cherokee, that Mr. Barcinas allegedly asked someone to fix and then brought it to his house.

At the two-day trial, the government called six witnesses—Office of the Public Auditor Taskforce police officers Melissa Bauleong and J.B. Cepeda, Finance Procurement & Supply Director Herman Sablan, former Department of Public Works mechanic Peter Taitano, Finance Rota Resident Director Vivian Hocog, and Rota Finance employee Tilford Toves.

In his ruling, Camacho said the prosecution filed this case as a criminal matter even though technically the offenses listed are traffic charges.

As to the charges of restriction upon use of government vehicle, Camacho said one of the basic elements that the government has to prove is that a government vehicle was driven or operated on the date of the crime.

Camacho noted that the government's own witnesses testified that on Feb. 23, 2015, the subject green Jeep was broken and not working.

"Because the green Jeep was not working on Feb. 23, 2015 it could not be driven," the judge said.

Camacho, however, agreed with the prosecutor that it is possible to operate a government vehicle without driving such as operating a stationary heavy equipment crane or bucket truck.

As to the charges of theft of vehicle against Rowena Barcinas, the judge said there was no testimony that she ever drove the vehicle and took it without consent.

In fact, Camacho said, there was no police report that the green Jeep was stolen or taken without permission.

Camacho said the prosecution did not put on any witness to show that Mrs. Barcinas initiated any action to unlawfully operate or take the green Jeep.

The judge said even in the light most favorable to the government as to inferences, the government has not shown that Mrs. Barcinas as then-employee of Rota Finance was prohibited to drive or operate the green Jeep.

Rota Finance is the titled owner of the Jeep.

As to theft of vehicle against Andrew Barcinas, Camacho said there was no testimony that he ever drove the vehicle and took the vehicle without consent.

Camacho said even in the light most favorable to the government as to inferences, the government has not shown that Andrew Barcinas through his wife, Rowena, deprived Rota Finance of its title or possession to the Jeep.

CAPE

From Page 1

the arrival of the second airplane.

CPA said the second aircraft was stationed at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

CPA said the aircraft first has to flight checks before flying. The ports authority could not yet provide a date when the second plane would fly.

Sablan's statement follows:

"I have been working with United Airlines officials on the frequent disruption to air travel between Saipan and Rota to and from Guam. It was about three years ago when one of the two airplanes underwent required major maintenance in the East Coast of the mainland. When that airplane returned, the one that's been flying for over a year now, the other airplane then also [had to] undergo the required major maintenance.

"I never let up with United Airlines. I did this for several reasons. There is a need for reliable air service to and from Guam. I wanted an airline where people flying to or from Rota can make reservations and purchase tickets online. Only United Airlines has Rota as a destination where one could book online.

"I have asked United to please review their airfare and to please provide a Y-UP fare for passengers originating from the Northern Mariana Islands.

"I am pleased to announce that the second airplane that went through the required major maintenance arrived in Guam yesterday afternoon. It will take about a week or so to remove the extra fuel tank they installed and to retrofit the airplane for passengers. After some testing, Cape [Air] will have two airplanes to service the Northern Marianas-Guam route.

"And I have asked United to bring high level executives to Saipan to meet with Commonwealth officials to discuss their plans for the future and the possible need to use newer planes.

"I can only do so much to influence private businesses. But I was glad to continue working with United to get two airplanes servicing the route. And I am glad that we have done that."

4 stranded fishermen from Saipan rescued on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota authorities safely rescued four fishermen from Saipan who were stranded for about five hours when their boat went aground the reef located on the north side of Rota on Saturday morning.

Rota Boating Safety Unit in-charge Police Officer Terry Mesngon told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all four male fishermen, who are Filipino, were not injured and taken to Rota.

Mesngon said the fishermen were subsequently transported back to Saipan by their company's other boat that fetched them that afternoon.

As of yesterday, the 18-foot fiber glass fishing boat was still stuck between rocks on the reef, according to Mesngon.

The four fishermen were fishing when their boat went aground on the reef. They radioed for assistance, but the back portion or north side of Rota is a dead communication zone.

Mesngon said two Rota fishermen noticed the stranded fishermen, who asked them for help.

The Rota fishermen then notified Rota police about the incident.

Mensngon and five other medics and personnel from Division of Fish and Wildlife then launched a rescue boat.

9 students from Japan arrive for home stay program on Saipan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Nine students and one chaperone arrived late afternoon yesterday and were met with eager host families waiting to host the Japanese students from Kokusai Seishonen Kenshu Kyokai.

Tokyo's International Youth Association of Japan KSKK group included nine students of which six were boys and three were girls and were escorted by one chaperone.

Saipan Mayor's Office executive assistant and homestay program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto, along with the 2015 Liberation Royal Court, met the students along with the host families and presented gifts and island necklaces as a welcoming present.

The students from KSKK are Rina Osaka, 10, Hoanmi Sugita, 13, Miki Shirashima, 14, Yuta Ichino, 10, Masaya Koizumi, 10, Kazuki Fukushima, 11, Kouta Segishima, 12, Hiroto Kawakami, 13, and Saito Masatoshi, 13.

The chaperone is Risako Suzuki, 20.

One parent, Morendie Aguon, said that she had been hosting for five years and said that she wanted to continue hosting so she applied to be a host family.

"My kids really enjoy the company of Japanese students. I have hosted more than 20 students and want to continue this experience," Aguon said.

Aguon also said that it is a great cultural experience so that her children will learn from them how Japanese culture is while the students learn the culture here on Saipan.

Another parent, Elena Guerrero, said that she was hosting since last year. She said that she continues to host because it is a memorable experience for many.

"I want to continue this. This is a great experience. Every time I host a student we do a lot of things together including with our family. We share our culture and they learn from us while we learn from them," Guerrero said.

Kishimoto said that the reason for the cultural program is to entice visitors, including the young generation, to learn about history and that Saipan used to be a colony of Japan.

"It also teaches the children to learn the cultural differences. It helps them know more on how to communicate despite the communication barrier. They learn little English but gain a lot from their experience and it ties deeper into Saipan and Japan relationship," Kishimoto said.

A total of five host families are hosting the students and the students will leave Aug. 4. Saipan Mayor's Office will be conducting outdoor activities for the KSKK group during their visit to Saipan.

Aside from KSKK There will be other schools from Japan visiting the CNMI and will need home stay.

On Aug. 5 to 11 Sanpoen students will be arriving, ECC English School students will arrive on Aug. 17 to 21, and Johoku High School will arrive on Oct. 27 to 30. KSKK will have a trip for CNMI students interested in homestay in Japan on Nov. 12 to 17, while KSKK students will arrive once again for homestay on Saipan from Dec. 24 to 30.

Interested families can pick up homestay applications at the Saipan Mayor's Office at the Ladera Center on Beach Road or call Kishimoto at 234-6208, 234-6280, and 235-7304.

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Group calls for referendum on military training

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Society is calling on the local and federal government to hold and fund a public referendum on whether to expand U.S. military training on Tinian and Pagan.

The public referendum would follow the publication of the final environmental impact statements on this proposed training.

The society's change.org petition asks the CNMI government to immediately commit to holding a public referendum following the publication of the final environmental impact statement on the proposed training; asks the United States Congress to expeditiously pass follow-on legislation to authorize federal funding to cover the costs associated with the public referendum; and calls for Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter, to publicly support the proposed public referendum and agree, on behalf of Department of Defense, to be bound by the will of the people as expressed by way of the public referendum.

The society explains that as part of the American pivot toward Asia, the United States Department of Defense is working hard to expand its military training in the Pacific. This includes conducting new live-fire amphibious training exercises on the tiny island of Pagan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the society says.

"As it stands, the Pentagon reportedly envisions conducting live-fire training exercises at least 16 weeks per year. To do so, the Pentagon wants to secure a lease on the entire island (~ 18-square-mile) from the unincorporated, dependent territory. This is in addition to the Pentagon's current lease on two-thirds of the island of Tinian, where the Department of Defense also plans to expand military exercises in the near future."

The society says that over the past six months, the Pentagon's plans to expand military training in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana have been met with fierce opposition from local residents.

"We therefore jointly call on the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to commit to hold a binding public referendum on whether to allow these military training exercises to move forward on Pagan and Tinian.

"Such a public referendum would ensure… that the expanded military training not only meets the needs of the U.S. military but also properly safeguards and compensates the residents for any associated economic disruptions, ecological damages, and negative social impacts. It would do so by placing the onus on the Pentagon to convince the majority of the residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that the expanded military training on Tinian and Pagan is in their best interest.

The petition can be found on: https://www.change.org/p/eloy-inos-barack-obama-gregorio-sablan-hold-a-public-referendum-in-in-the-commonwealth-of-the-northern-mariana-islands-on-whether-to-expand-u-s-military-training-exercises-on-tinian-and-pagan-following-the-pentagon-s-publication-of-the-final-environm

The Pacific Islands Society calls itself an "an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting stronger people-people relations between the Pacific Island Countries and beyond."

No changes on Medicaid for private clinics

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

»But eye doctors and dialysis for Medicaid service available

Despite a number of community members airing their concerns through social media on Medicaid not being accepted at private clinics, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna still has no means or intention to allow once again private clinics to avail of it.

Muna

"There are no certifications anticipated," Muna said.

"However, specialists such as eye doctor and dialysis had been certified to be a service unavailable at CHCC. Therefore Medicaid is accepted there," she added.

As of yesterday, private clinics on island still can't accept Medicaid clients for outpatient services—except specialists—provided to adults and children.

Private clinics that accepted Medicaid ended June 30. CHCC made its final decision not to extend the use of private practitioners for outpatient services.

Unless Muna makes the certification she will be certifying whether the hospital does not have the physicians to treat patients.

As of now CHCC has 33 physicians and won't need the assistance for outpatient services from private clinics.

Muna said that CHCC will not be certifying if there is a shortage of providers at CHCC but CHCC will monitor the census and purpose of visits of the patients to ensure the access to care is available.

Muna informed the CNMI Medicaid Office program that she would look over for it for a month and let the Medicaid Office know if it will be open up again with the private clinics.

There are three main clinics that used to accept Medicaid patients for outpatient services—Saipan Health Clinic, Pacific Medical Center, and Marianas Medical Center.

PH passports may be claimed starting today

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Filipinos who had their passport applications processed two months ago will be able to claim their passports starting today.

According to honorary consul to the Philippines Glicerio "Eli" Arago, those who wish to claim their passports may proceed to the second floor of J.P. Center in Beach Road, Garapan where his current office is.

Claiming will be from 5pm to 8pm starting today until Friday, July 31.

Arago said they will also be holding a distribution on Saturday, Aug. 1, but the time and venue will be announced later on.

Five hundred passports that were processed during the Philippine Consulate in Guam's mobile outreach in Saipan last May are up for distribution.

The honorary consul earlier said that they wish to distribute the passports before the next scheduled mobile outreach of the said consulate in the CNMI which will be from Aug. 13 to 15 on Saipan and Aug. 16 on Tinian.

Pre-registered applicants for renewal of passports, registration for overseas voting, and those who want to avail of the civil registry and notarial services will be accommodated.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR QUALIFIED PROPOSALS

EIGHT HOUSES ON SAIPAN AND TWO HOUSES IN SINAPALO, ROTA

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) announces this request for qualified proposals for the following:

1. Two-story 5 Bedroom Concrete House located in Kannat Tabla, Saipan – 1 unit
2. Two-story 4 Bedroom Concrete House located in Kagman, Saipan – 1 unit
3. 3 Bedroom Concrete Houses located in Kagman, Saipan – 2 units
4. 2 Bedroom Concrete Houses located in Kagman Saipan – 4 units
5. Two-story 4 Bedroom Concrete House located in Sinapalo, Rota – 1 unit
6. 2 Bedroom Concrete House located in Sinapalo, Rota – 1 unit

MPLT Resolution 10-10-A2 establishes the Supplemental Home Investment Program (SHIP), under the program, MPLT offers these acquired homes in its inventory to qualified persons. The three significant qualification requirements include the following: 1) the homes are offered at the minimum appraised value; 2) each proposer is credit-worthy for debt-service for the amount of the appraised value of the home; and 3) the proposer is certified as qualified under the CNMI Homestead Program with the CNMMI Department of Public Lands, Homestead Division.

The interest rate is 2% per annum fixed under the program.

Notice is given to all proposers that there are no warranties of any kind as to any of the homes under the SHIP program. Homes are presented for proposals "as is and where is" without warranties as to habitability, suitability or fitness for purpose. It is the responsibility of each interested proposer to inspect or commission an inspection of the property.

In this announcement MPLT solicits qualified proposals for the acquired houses listed above. They are not subject to the right of redemption. Below is a photograph and short description of each home as well as the minimum appraised value. Interested proposers may pick up the application packets at the MPLT Office at House NO. 1222, Capital Hill; or with the MPLT Loan Administrator (Bank of Saipan) in Chalan Kanoa or at www.mplt.gov.mp

The deadline for submission of proposals for any of the houses is Friday, August 28, 2015 at 4:00PM.

MPLT hereby reserves the right to cancel, modify or reject this RFP and any proposals should the Trustees determine that doing so is in the best interest of the Trust.

MPLT SHIP 003

2-story/5-Bedroom/3-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kannat Tabla
Appraised Value: $156,000.00

MPLT SHIP 008

3-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Fair Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $44,000.00

MPLT SHIP 009

3-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $66,000.00

MPLT SHIP 010

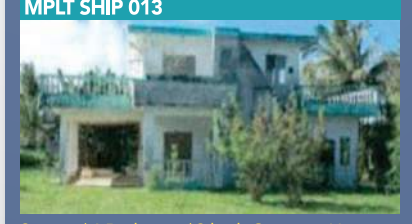
2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $39,000.00

MPLT SHIP 011

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $44,000.00

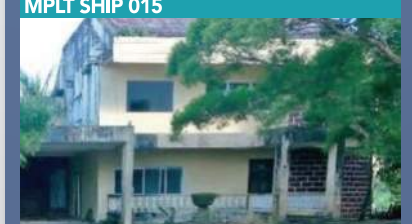
MPLT SHIP 012

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $31,000.00

MPLT SHIP 013

2-story / 4-Bedroom / 2-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Fair Condition
Kagman II
Appraised Value: $73,000.00

MPLT SHIP 014

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Kagman III
Appraised Value: $38,000.00

MPLT SHIP 015

2-story / 4-Bedroom / 3-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Sinapalo, Rota Subdivision
Appraised Value: $50,000.00

MPLT SHIP 016

2-Bedroom / 1-bath Concrete House
Septic tank system
Good Condition
Sinapalo, Rota
Appraised Value: $35,000.00

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMDC general membership meeting on July 31

The Northern Marianas Descent Corporation wishes to inform its members and fellow NMDs that there will be a general membership meeting this Thursday, July 31, 6:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi Purpose Building in Susupe. ***(PR)***

CNMI Women's Association general membership meeting on July 30

The 2015 CNMI Women's Association general membership meeting will be held thus Thursday, July 30, 6pm at the Carolinian Utt next to the Carolinian Affairs Office and Garapan Community Development Center. ***(PR)***

IN LAWSUIT VS LAWYERS LUJAN, ISRAEL

Manglona issues ruling favorable to Hillbroom

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has issued a ruling favorable to Junior Larry Hillbroom, who is suing his two previous lawyers for allegedly conspiring with his former trustee to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when late business tycoon Larry Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Manglona ruled that all of grounds asserted by attorneys David J. Lujan and Barry J. Israel in their motion for judgment on the pleadings failed.

In denying Lujan and Israel's motion, Manglona said Hillbroom's claims are not precluded as res judicata, do not violate the Full Faith and Credit Clause, and are not subject to the Rooker-Feldman doctrine.

Res judicata doctrine bars litigation in a subsequent action of any claims that were raised or could have been raised in the prior lawsuit.

Under the Full Faith and Credit Clause doctrine, a party is precluded from re-litigating claims and issues that were already decided in any U.S. court. This preclusive effect is sometimes referred to as res judicata.

Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars federal district courts from entertaining appeals of state court judgments.

Courts grant judgment on the pleadings "when there is no issue of material fact in dispute, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law."

With Manglona's ruling, it means that Hillbroom's lawsuit against Lujan and Israel will proceed.

In their motion, Lujan and Israel asserted that judgment should enter in their favor because the relief Hillbroom is seeking would require the federal court to engage in improper appellate review of final orders of the Guam Superior Court and exceed its authority by altering or vacating those orders.

The Vietnam-based Israel and Guam lawyer Lujan used to serve as counsels for Hillbroom in the late Hillblom's probate matter in Superior Court. Hillbroom is the DNA-proven son of Hillblom.

Hillblom died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters in 1995.

Approximately $100 million in assets were distributed to Hillbroom in the settlement of the probate case for Hillblom estate. Since Hillbroom was a minor at the time of the settlement, the Junior Larry Hillbroom Trust (JLH Trust) was created for him.

Hillbroom alleges that in 2001 his lawyers, Israel and Lujan, together with JLH trustee Keith Waibel, conspired to wrongfully increase their contingency fee in his recovery from the Hillblom estate from 38 percent to 56 percent, and thereby to drain the trust of millions of dollars.

It is alleged that the conspiracy was effectuated through fraud and involved breaches of fiduciary duty to Hillbroom and his guardians, especially his grandmother, Naoko Imeong.

In denying defendants' motion, Manglona said in Lujan's and Israel's view, the exercise of subject matter jurisdiction by federal court would violate the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the so-called Rooker-Feldman doctrine, which bars federal district courts from entertaining appeals of state court judgments.

Manglona said the Guam court orders that defendants Lujan and Israel allege Hillbroom is collaterally attacking are the following:

- 1995 order approving Junior's grandmother as his guardian.
- A 1998 order establishing a trust account for interim payments to Junior.
- A 1999 order approving the JLH Trust, with Waibel as trustee, and payment of attorney fees and costs.
- A 1999 order or a preliminary distribution from the Hillblom estate to JLH Trust.
- A 2000 order approving Waibel as Junior's off-island guardian.
- A 2001 order approving the 56 percent JLH Trust fee agreement.
- Four 2001-2 orders approving Waibel's accounting.

According to defendants, Hillbroom is "improperly asking this court (federal court) to vacate these Guam court orders and re-adjudicate the propriety of the accountings, expenditures and actions taken by the protectors…"

In response, Hillbroom asserted he is not seeking to invalidate any orders other than the 2001 order approving the 56 percent fee.

As to that order, Hillbroom noted that a federal court has the power to set aside a state-court order that was obtained by extrinsic fraud, and asserts that he has sufficiently pled extrinsic fraud.

Defendants denied that Hillbroom has adequately pled extrinsic fraud.

But Manglona agreed with Hillbroom that the only Guam court order that is arguably under collateral attack is the 2001 order approving the 56 percent fee agreement.

Manglona said if Hillbroom wins this lawsuit, that Guam 2001 order alone will effectively be made a nullity.

Manglona said Hillbroom is not seeking to roll back any of the other orders.

Under the Full Faith and Credit Act, the judge said, any court within the United States must give "the same full faith and credit" to any judicial act as that act has in the state, territory, or possession that issued it.

Manglona said Hillbroom has complained that defendants concealed their self-dealing from him, fraudulently induced his guardians to backdate the 56 percent retainer agreement, and submitted a report falsely justifying the fee.

"Any of this conduct, if proved, would constitute extrinsic fraud," Manglona pointed out.

Manglona said defendants' arguments to the contrary are unconvincing.

First, the judge said, defendants assert that because at the time of the events in question Hillbroom was a minor, he had no power to consent to the retainer agreement and any fraudulent concealment from him would have no legal consequence.

Even if that were true, Manglona said, the complaint alleges that defendants kept information not only from Hillbroom but also from his guardian and grandmother Naoko Imeong.

Second, Manglona said, the defendants maintain that because the Guam court approved the very payments that fraudulently (according to Hillbroom) induced Imeong to go along with the backdating, a finding in Hillbroom's favor would necessarily impute that the Guam court itself was corrupt.

That conclusion, Manglona pointed out, doesn't follow from the premise.

Manglona said undue influence on his guardians would have deprived Hillbroom of a full and fair "opportunity to present his case in court."

Third, the judge said, defendants insist that because the report Hillbroom claimed was false was reviewed by the Guam court this action improperly seeks appellate review of the Guam court's order.

Manglona said Hillbroom, however, has alleged that the falsified report prevented him and his guardian Imeong from recognizing that the 56 percent fee was unjustified, thus depriving her of an opportunity to appeal on those grounds.

"That's extrinsic fraud," Manglona said.

For these reasons, Manglona said, after an independent review of the pleadings and moving papers, she finds that District Court Judge David O. Carter's ruling that res judicata does not bar Hillbroom's claims is well supported and deserves to be followed.

Defendants asserted that their full faith and credit defense is distinct from the preclusion claim that Judge Carter analyzed.

Manglona said generally speaking, however, full faith and credit merely extends the common law doctrine of res judicata so as to prevent claims that have already been addressed in state court from being wastefully relitigated in federal court.

Defendants, she said, have not articulated a theory as to how their full faith and credit defense differs from res judicata.

Therefore, Manglona said, the court finds no basis in the Full Faith and Credit Clause to grant defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings.

Defendants also asserted that Junior's federal lawsuit is barred because he is asking the district court to overturn a state court judgment—the 2001 Guam order approving the 56 percent fee—in violation of the jurisdictional limitation announced in Rooker-Feldman cases.

Manglona said Rooker-Feldman does not bar Hillbroom's lawsuit, for two reasons.

First, she said, Hillbroom is not a "state-court loser."

In the Guam court in 2001, Manglona said, Hillbroom was not defendants' adversary.

Rather, the judge said, in the Hillblom probate and guardianship cases, defendants were attorneys representing Hillbroom's interests.

Manglona said the fact that Hillbroom now feels that defendants "sold out [his] interests" and "connived at his defeat" does not turn him into the losing party of a state-court contest.

Second, the judge said, Hillbroom does not seek to set aside the 2001 order based on legal errors by the Guam court, but because of defendants' extrinsic fraud.

"Extrinsic fraud on the court is, by definition, not an error by that court. It is, rather, a wrongful act committed by the party or parties who engaged in the fraud," Manglona said, citing a case law.

Manglona said as Hillbroom has sufficiently alleged extrinsic fraud, therefore, although this lawsuit may be a de facto appeal of the 2001 Guam court order, it is not barred by the Rooker-Feldman doctrine.

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Tebuteb: Casino regulator's lack of manpower a concern

The Commonwealth Casino Commission's lack of manpower could be a concern, now that a "live" training facility has been opened in Garapan, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) said.

The commission continues to hire, but has yet to get the 25 personnel—occupying 17 different job positions—that it initially needs.

Tebuteb

An advertisement from the commission indicated 12 administrative positions, nine positions for enforcement, and four audit and compliance positions.

"I hope that they (regulators) are ready to monitor the operation of this 'live' training facility," Tebuteb said. "Do they have the personnel? Is it going to be provided by the trainer?"

The House minority leader emphasized the need to monitor the casino on a "24x7" basis.

"We want it to work. I would want to make sure that we do our part, and that it works. Otherwise, dangerous things may happen," Tebuteb said.

Best Sunshine International Ltd. on Sunday held a "soft opening" of its casino at the T-Galleria. The company is planning to have a full-pledged opening in August.

Casino commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero earlier said the commission has so far hired one administrative assistant.

It has received 104 respondents for the 25 job openings, Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the regulators are "hoping to expeditiously start the interview process, then provide training for the additional personnel."

Deleon Guerrero said the commission's division on investigation and enforcement will have an office at the T-Galleria where the casino is located.

"This is basically the regulatory monitoring staff," Deleon Guerrero said, adding that the commission's office at the T-Galleria will be open "24x7" and will be manned round the clock on three shifts.

"We will have our own surveillance monitors within the facility," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said the regulators are also conducting weekly meetings with Best Sunshine for updates.

Deleon Guerrero also confirmed that the casino commission is working with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Customs, the Office of Public Affairs, and other enforcement agencies to plan for an "ongoing task force to monitor this new industry."

For now, members of the commission will be at the site until the commission completes hiring the personnel it needs. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Crystal Cave vandalized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Graffiti was found inside Crystal Cave, also known as Honeycomb Cave, in Marpi, while some stalagmites were broken over the weekend, a Saipan resident told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"We're shocked, upset. Who could do that to such a beautiful and unique cave?" Shelly Scott said.

Scott said she and her two friends visited the cave on Saturday morning and it was still fine.

She said on Sunday morning her friend tagged along three other friends to the same Crystal Cave, and they were shocked seeing stalactites being spray painted with big words or names with green and pink colors.

Scott said her friend took photographs of the graffiti.

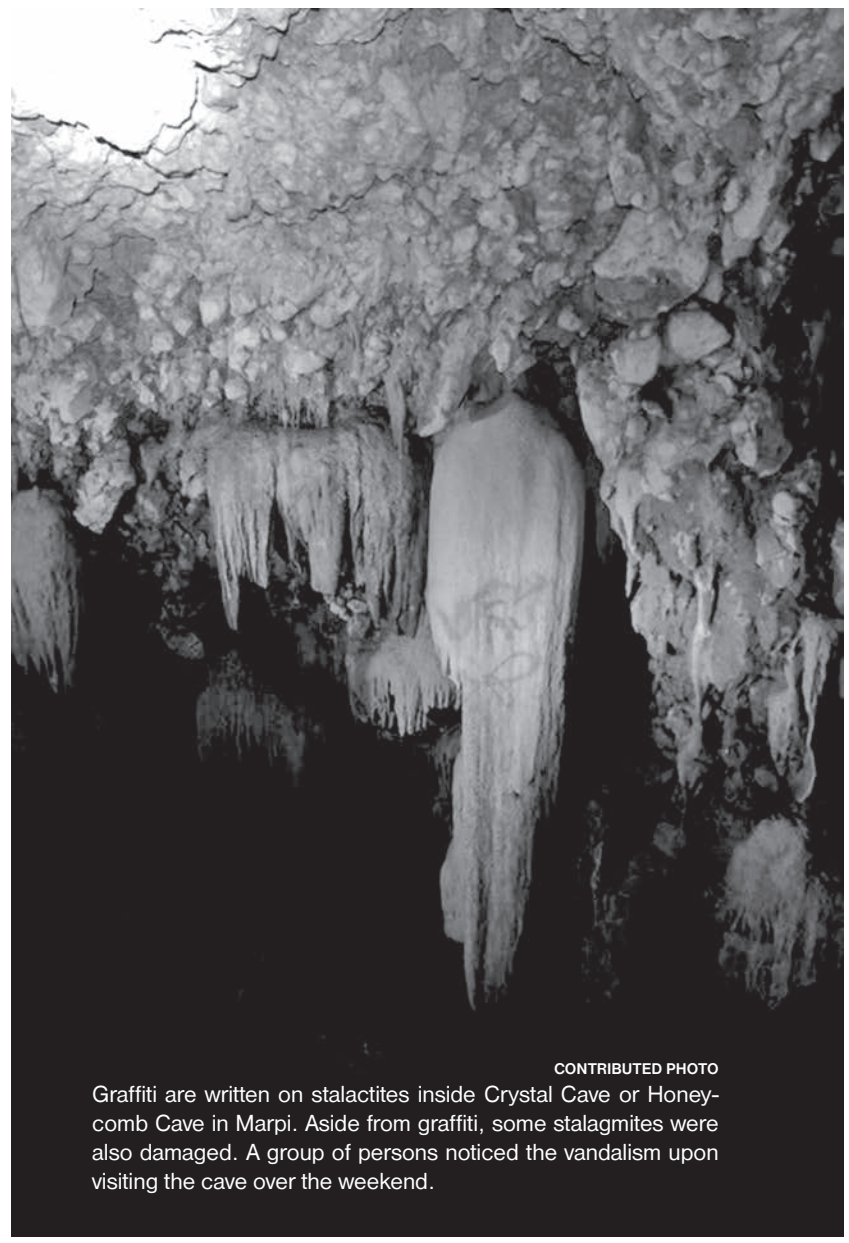
Scott said glass bottles were also left in the cave.

She said during their last exploration at the same cave last June, they found a name and date carving.

Scott believed that the carving says "Zach Lay 2/8/15 and 3/23/15."

Scott said she called the Department of Public Lands and the Division of Fish and Wildlife about the incident over the weekend.

"It would be really great if some sort of cleanup could be done on the paint as well as perhaps a list of do's and don'ts when visiting historical and geological sites in the CNMI in the news (look only with your eyes, don't take anything, etc.)," she added.


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Graffiti are written on stalactites inside Crystal Cave or Honeycomb Cave in Marpi. Aside from graffiti, some stalagmites were also damaged. A group of persons noticed the vandalism upon visiting the cave over the weekend.

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on July 31, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club - Charley's Cabaret.

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ROLL CALL
III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015
V. REPORTS
a. Chairman
b. Executive Director
c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
VI. OLD BUSINESS
a. Autism Awareness Month Activities Updates
b. 2017 – 2021 DD Basic Grant Five Year State Plan Focus Group Meetings and Surveys Updates
VII. NEW BUSINESS
a. Commonwealth Respite Services Program Workshop
b. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Training
c. National Disability Employment Awareness Month
VIII. ACTION ITEMS
a. Ratification/Approval of the Amendment to FY 2015 Assistive Technology Act Grant Budget
b. Ratification/Approval of Proposed State Plan Amendments for DD Basic Grant for FY 2015 and FY 2016
c. Election of Officers
XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
XII. MISCELLANEOUS
XIII. NEXT MEETING
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ John DLG. Demapan
Acting Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-15-IFB-010

INSTALLATION OF SPEED BUMPS

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Installation of Speed Bumps, Kagman II and III**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **July 29, 2015**, at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, and Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Works at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 17, 2015**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 24, 2015** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-15-IFB-010**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local times **September 03, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local times September 03, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside the CNMI, and original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 03, 2015** and must be received no later than **September 15, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **Sept. 16, 2015**. However, if no notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **Sept. 03, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25, 000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has the authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Thirty (30) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement and Supply

DUE TO DIFFICULTY IN RECRUITMENT

Hospital to look into past applications for CFO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's already been 10 months since the hospital last had a financial chief as it is having a hard time recruiting one.

Because of this Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna and hospital executives have now resorted to surveying past applications of possible candidates for the chief financial officer job.

Muna said they are looking at a total of 21 possible candidates for the CFO position and have touched base with past applicants if they are still interested.

"We still have their files and in the past they were interested prior to the former CFO [Jack Taitague] and we'll see if they're still interested," she said.

Former CHCC CFO Jack Taitague resigned from his post in August last year, just a few months after being hired.

Last March, the hospital was close to recruiting a former hospital CFO, however its offer was declined and the hospital started the recruitment process once again.

As of now, Cora Ada is the acting CFO.

The hospital is now only working with financial consultants providing help to the cash-strapped corporation.

When asked about the finance officer, Muna said that they haven't had any luck in finding a finance officer so far.

"The finance officer will be helping the CFO, but in the mean time the finance officer position is still open and not closed so interested individuals can still apply for it. The finance officer will not only help the CFO but assist while we don't have a CFO," Muna said.

"Right now, we're using a financial consultant, while we're looking, and we're closing on the gap for the bills, and still have some issues with the Electronic Health Record system [EHR]," she added.

She said the hospital does need a CFO but the CFO needs to understand health financials, which is complex in its own way.

Plans to revive traditional carving, blacksmithing now in the works

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The revival of traditional blacksmithing and carving is in the works, after Guam master carvers visited Saipan and offered their expertise to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

While on Saipan, Council of Arts and Humanities Agency masters Francisco C. Lizama and Greg T. Pangelinan met with the NMTI officials to work out a long-range plan to offer their expertise.

Lizama and Pangelinan expressed great interest in teaching their craft to Saipan students. They met with NMTI and municipal leaders when they took part in the Liberation Day parade last July 18, riding on the float of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Antonia Tudela said she is collaborating with NMTI in introducing local blacksmithing at the school.

Tudela met with the CAHA masters at the Guam Micronesia Island Fair at the Ipao Beach Park last June.

"It would help teach the young generation interested in local blacksmithing who want to learn how to use traditional Chamorro and Carolinian tools. It is a great opportunity to keep our culture alive and they can learn something from it," Tudela said.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres earlier said she had been talking with Tudela regarding the local blacksmithing program.

Lizama and Pangelinan have represented Guam in the Festival of the Pacific Arts in Palau in 2004, American Samoa in 2008, and the Solomon Islands in 2012. Both took part in similar events in New Caledonia and Australia.

The two also participated in the Guam Micronesia Island Festival in Guam and the CNMI's Flame Tree Festival. Lizama has practiced blacksmithing for over 25 years and Pangelinan began learning the traditional arts at the early age of 13, when he took a drawing class at Barrigada Junior High.

The council's support is part of a shared vision by the council, NMTI, and the respective mayors of the Mariana Islands—Rota, Northern Islands, Tinian, Saipan, and Guam—that will focus on the planned conference called 2016 Konferencian Dinana Islans Marianas to be held on Pagan.

Navy Hill water main break repaired, service restored

Service was restored to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers affected by Sunday evening's water main break along Navy Hill after crews spent 18 hours to replace an 18-foot section of ruptured pipe.

CUC customers along Navy Hill between Magas Loop and Gloria Drive, as well as customers in Chinatown and Upper Mihaville lost water service Sunday when the 12-inch water main burst at the eastern entrance to Magas Loop.

CUC and GPPC Inc. began working to identify the cause of the break Monday morning. CUC Water and Wastewater Trades supervisor Glenn Villagomez and CUC junior engineer Nicolette Villagomez were on hand to oversee the project along with Water and Wastewater Trades assistant Ben Sablan.

The combined team of CUC and GPPC crewmen worked through the night until repair and replacement efforts were completed Tuesday afternoon.

Acting executive director John Riegel thanked his staff and GPPC project manager Dennis Tupa, for the work he and his crew performed at the site.

"I wish to extend my appreciation to Dennis and the entire crew mobilized to attend to the leak on Navy Hill Road yesterday," said Riegel. "GPPC was very responsive and willing to help CUC with the major leak in the water main."

For more information about the project, contact CUC's 24-hour Call Center at 664-4CUC (4282). ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A baby sea turtle sitting on top of a coconut shell signifies the intricate connection between the sea turtle and the Chamorros and Carolinian as part of their traditional food gathering as represented on the carving by Greg Pangelinan. From left, Council of Arts and Humanities Agency master carver Greg Pangelinan (Guam), Bill Torres (Saipan), Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Tonie Tudela (Saipan), CAHA master blacksmith Frank Lizama (Guam), and Guam apprentice John Manglona (retired military).

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB-DCCA/NAP-117

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 21, 2015 TIME: 10:00 AM

"CLEANING SERVICES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
Secretary, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DCCA/NAP-118

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 21, 2015 TIME 10:30 AM

"PRINTING AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM"

Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
Secretary, DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Saipan Mayor's Office Conference Room, Ladera Center, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes from July 2, 2015
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
 1. Administrator
 2. Chair
 3. Board Committees
  a. Committee on Award (COA)
  b. Committee on Policy and Procedures (CPP)
  c. Committee on Program and Development (CPD)
  d. Committee on Appeal (CAPP)
IV. Old Business
 1. Revisit Priority Fields
 2. Update: SHEFA Office Relocation
V. New Business
 1. Elect Committee Chair for Finance, Legislative & Community Affairs (CFLCA)
 2. Revise SHEFA Budget Proposal (FY 2016)
 3. Fall 2015/Fall 2014 Status and Funding Review
 4. Tracking System and Data Collection
VI. Executive Session
 1. Appeals/Deferments/Forbearance
 2. Other Matters
VII. Miscellaneous
VIII. Next Board Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 Tinian, MP 96952
Tel.: (670) 433-2200 Fax: (670) 433-1819

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board herby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (Room D), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
 a. Call to Order
 b. Roll Call
 c. Adoption of Agenda
 d. Adoption of Minutes
II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT
III. EXECUTIVE SESSION
IV. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Review & Amendment
V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER
VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING
VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER/
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by the NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTC's. NMHC may allocate **$3,563,034.00** in LIHTCs for the 2015 program year.

Application for LIHTCs.
Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 17, 2015**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 1, 2015**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm of September 15, 2015**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October 2015** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards
NMHC will notify Owner/Developer of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.
For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 149

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Finding a treasure: A Quran is dated to the time of Muhammad

For nearly a century, no one thought much about the fact that not all the pages of a Quran owned by the library at the University of Birmingham in London fit together stylistically. It took Alba Fedeli, a researcher working on her doctorate at the university, to notice that the beautiful calligraphy of one set of pages didn't match the pages before or after it.

Ms. Fedeli's suspicions that there was far more to those pages than could be accounted for in the book the pages were bound in prompted the university to send the pages out for closer inspection and dating by the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit.

When the report came back, it was clear that Ms. Fedeli's keen eye had indeed unearthed a treasure sitting in plain sight, what is believed to be part of the world's oldest copy of the Quran. Inscribed on either sheep or goat skin, the two parchment leaves are believed with 94 percent certainty to date back 1,370 years to the time of the Prophet Muhammad.

The parchments are believed to have been written between 568 and 645. Muhammad died in 632. It is possible the pages were transcribed by a contemporary of Muhammad's long before finished versions of the Quran entered the world's spiritual bloodstream.

The parchment contains parts of what now are chapters 18 to 20 of the Quran. Some Islamic scholars, though happy about the discovery, remind fellow scholars and believers that jumping to conclusions this early in the process would not be wise. It is possible the parchment was written later than the radiocarbon report allows because of the style in which it is written.

Still the discovery of this parchment is an occasion for the world's 1.6 billion Muslims to celebrate a once-hidden connection to the earliest days of their faith.

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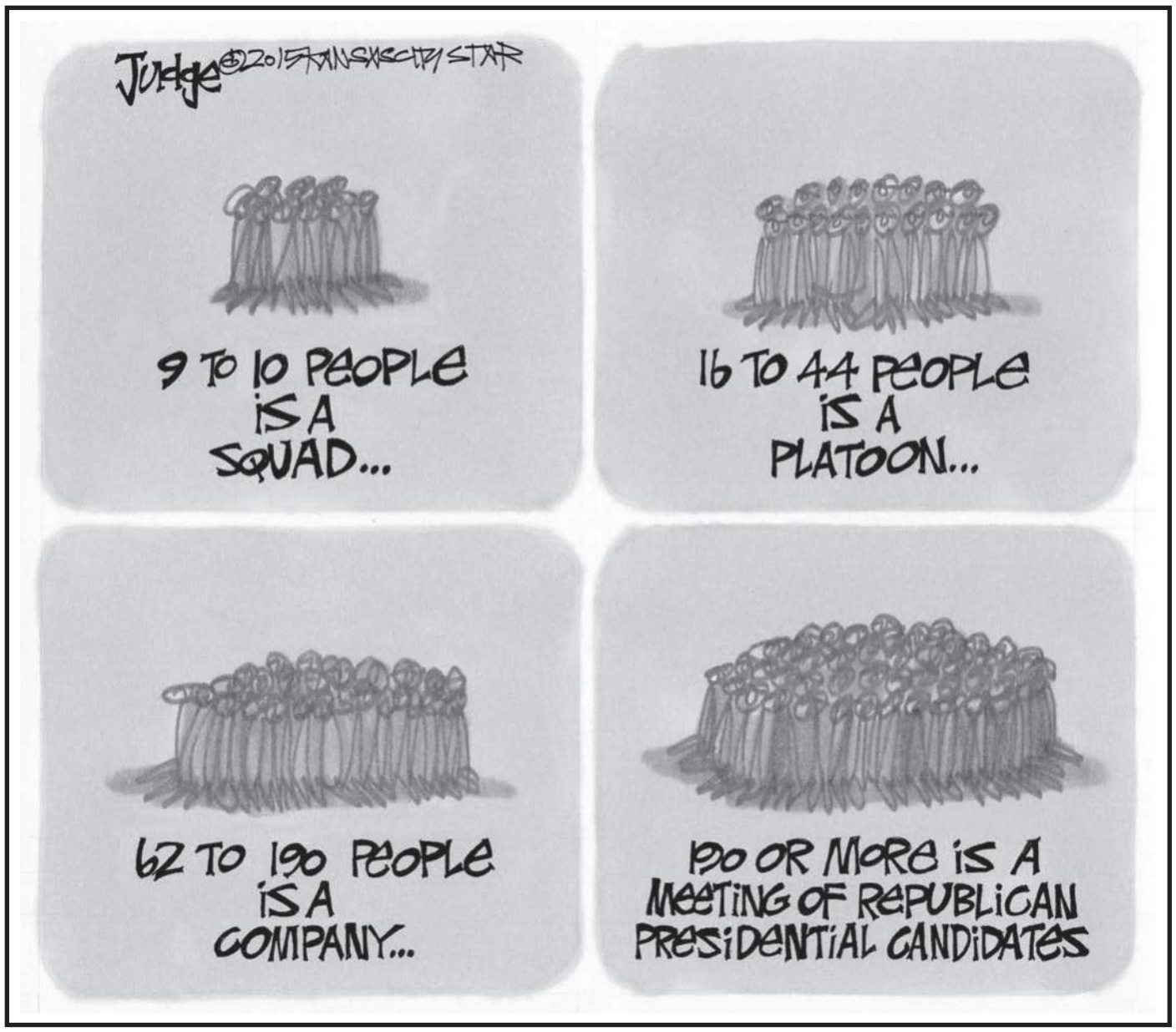

JUDGE ©2015 KANSAS CITY STAR
9 TO 10 PEOPLE IS A SQUAD...
16 TO 44 PEOPLE IS A PLATOON...
62 TO 190 PEOPLE IS A COMPANY...
1200 OR MORE IS A MEETING OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Tiananmen Squared

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I met my sister and her husband in Beijing. She presented at the International Conference of Nurses in Seoul, and I thought I'd accompany their walk through Tiananmen Square on their first visit to North City (bei jing) of the Middle Realm (Zhong Guo).

The Tiananmen 1989 of my recollection was open; regular folks were on the Square with no uniformed security personnel on sight; the heroes tower was there for picture taking, and the mausoleum of Mao Zedong was open to the public.

It is now squared with layers of security personnel. Getting there from Qianmen north of Beijing's hutong (old servants' quarters) used to be a stroll across the street. No longer. The place has become so maddeningly regulated that foot traffic is strictly through underground tunnels.

Up-and-down stoic glances to assess if one fitted a profile were too common for comfort. Understandable, it is hardly justifiable; but China is used to the rule of authority with no complaints broadcast from local quarters.

But symbol is key, and Tiananmen is a high profile symbol of Beijing and China, abused once too many times recently, defiled and sullied by foreign reporters out for a dramatic story or a challenge to the symbol the Square represents. After all, the "Chinese are Commies" remains a biased catch phrase.

The solo guy frequently portrayed to defy martyrdom of international media in front of lined tanks in Tiananmen turned out to be less than an intentional act of heroic defiance as usually presented. In fact, it turns out to be no defiance at all, questionable that it even occurred at the Square since the alleged ledge from which it was supposed to have been filmed from the Beijing Hotel does not look into the Square.

No matter, the labeled "student massacre" in Tiananmen Square did not occur; the students evacuated Tiananmen the day before the alleged massacre. Still, the military action that occurred on striking workers is often labeled as the student massacre at Tiananmen!

My sister, her husband, and I, all came from MERS country. Cautiously, I kept to my corner at Pusan letting the coronavirus with its viral crown elsewhere.

We did Beijing—the Forbidden City (peak season and the local tourists toured with their whole household) and Wangfujing (the Paseo of Beijing, if one may be allowed such gross comparison) the first day, the Temple of Heaven quad and Tiananmen Square the second, then the Great Wall at Mutianyu on the third. The fourth was hotel check out. After three days, our ambulatory and respiratory states were revealed to need more than a little adjustment.

The Temple of Heaven was a walk in the Park. Members of the regal houses of the Ming and the Qing dynasties lit their incense sticks there. But it was the trip to the Great Wall at Mutianyu that was memorable. I visited the Great Wall at Badaling in '89, and another site in 2011. I was going to be guide 2015, renting a car that was cheaper than the cost for three on a bus tour. But the driver thought it was better to see the newer Mutianyu a good 10 km further than Badaling, the older and latter crowded now that public bus and the commuter rail is extended to the place. It made sense.

We were not disappointed but for the additional tourist trap cost. From the parking lot we walked past aggressively bothersome souvenir shop keepers to a bus that took us to the cable car that carried us up to one of the Great Wall's highest point. We spent four hours on the trek forgoing the curio shops given that the ambulatory and respiratory challenges were pronounced though more with my younger sister and hubby. My regular walks on the lagoon pathway paid off.

Coal plants around Beijing were not accommodating. The skies stayed overcast, the magnificent view from a high elevation was hazy. The cable car at one end and the ski lift not a few walls down a-ways were not connected services so one cannot get up on one and get down on the other. Getting up to the ramp was a major effort enough.

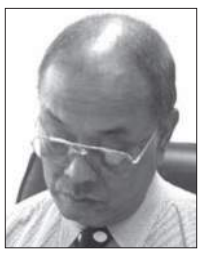
"Take a picture to show that we were here," my sister groaned upon reaching the top. Pictures, we had tons of. The return to Beijing was a snooze until we got back to the hotel and tried to transfer photo images to my laptop. I discovered I forgot the MacAir at the noodle shop near Mutianyu's parking lot.

The hotel front desk called the driver of the rented car who called the noodle shop and in five minutes, we located the laptop. How to

See TIANANMEN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The allure 'Do-Nothing'



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The golden allure to lay down my pen permanently knocks on my door, intermittently. It isn't that I've lost the inspiration to write. I was simply romanticizing what complete retirement is like replicating work on imperial Capital Hill: "Do-Nothing!"

It would have turned into taking meaningful walks along the shore at dawn and sunset to savor quiet moments alone for spiritual nourishment. I also needed the healthy salt spray blowing in from the sea. It's a great venue to mentally review my scribbles on island legends all written in the vernacular my gift to posterity.

But my guardian angel says otherwise. It's the pathway to a quick trip into dementia land. Not quite ready to succumb to complete sedentary lifestyle. Well, I'd be around for as long as my intellectual acuity remains razor sharp.

Be that as it may, I wish to encourage everyone to develop reading peripheral and complex researched materials on issues that matter as a daily exercise. You'd build a thirst for the right information and an informed view of whether justice was done or not on issues before us. When discussions go astray, you ask: So what is it? This query resets and invites greater focus for deliberative discussions on issues that matter.

Hence, any issue of interest triggers "initial apprehension" as we move into research and the analytical level. We yearn for rationale explanation, e.g., logic and principle used to consciously reach a decision, why a particular choice was made; how the basis of its selection was developed, why and how the particular information or assumptions were relied on, and why the conclusion is deemed credible or realistic. The research material grants you clarity on differing views or dispositions on issues that matter.

Having walked down this path for years I was a first hand witness to major local or regional events, e.g., the Micronesian Constitutional Convention of over 300 delegates, issues at the South Pacific Community (SPC) comprised of island nations and territories north and south of the equator, the role of the South Pacific Forum and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It was at this level that I honed my skills focusing on issues that matter (forest over the trees) and subsequent analysis. I relish the dual challenge of framing issues into perspective and writing about them too.

Nationally: Now, let's peep into a controversial national issue. President Obama touts the Iran Agreement as the pathway to ease tension in the Middle East and deter war for at least a decade. Some are behind it while others see it as an appeasement that failed to effectively stop Iran from building nuclear weapons. He and his team have moved for UN Security Council approval to avoid any tinkering of the document by the US Congress.

"This foolishness is not merely a matter of bad judgment. This sort of epic folly is only the product of a hubris that sees such minor matters as insignificant when compared to the chance to make history", according to Jonathan Tobin of Commentary Magazine. The agreement has wedged wider divide between Obama and republicans on Capitol Hill." National politicians must wrestle the new agreement and dispose of it.

At Home: We don the facade of everything's fine in paradise struggling to hide a bad case of a virulent flu from the vicious infection known as "bankruptcy". We move pennies, nickels and dimes here, there and everywhere prompted by the lack of new sources of revenue. Is the setback one of lack of revenues or lack of prudence in spending? Do we slight the issue with mediocrity once more? We're caught flat-footed once more on this issue. Therefore, we must resolve the debt-laden fiscal posture of the NMI. If need be, a "meet and confer" weekly meeting should be held among elected officials to keep abreast of the fiscal temblor downstairs.

The fiscal paralysis has disabled our paying CUC over $30 million in utility debts, serious social problems with methamphetamine or ice throughout our community, and other obligations relating to education and healthcare services. Understanding the need for more isn't difficult. It's in divvying the limited resources available that is woefully hard.

Moreover, the stagnant salaries of over ten years aren't helping families either. Would this situation improve over the short-term? It's a tough query best hurled at those who promised brighter tomorrows at the campaign trail in the last election. I seriously doubt that any of the elected officials really have the coconuts to discuss what may have gone wrong or if they have plans to ease village level hardship. Did someone say "solutions driven?"

■■■

Reset paradigms: Though a retiree, there's room to lure anchor investments including the long-term benefits of alternative energy. Whatever the undertaking may be, it isn't an "instant soba" case but a definite state issue that requires a set of plans from A-Z.

The need to spur lasting investments has become dire. Though there may be plans for this purpose on the wings, how does the NMI navigate US Immigration mandate that we replace all guest workers by 2019? It's a nightmare for leadership and it must move in now. "The tide waits for no man."

Americans are learning: More guns mean less crime

By JOHN R. LOTT JR.
The Philadelphia Inquirer

John R. Lott Jr. is the president of the Crime Prevention Research Center and the author of "More Guns, Less Crime."

Americans are increasingly convinced that owning a gun makes them safer.

A new Rasmussen poll found that an overwhelming majority of Americans (68 percent) "feel safer in a neighborhood where guns are allowed." And a series of polls by Gallup, the Pew Research Center, and ABC News and the Washington Post show similar results.

But it isn't just what people say. They are clearly putting more stock in self-defense. Since 2007, the number of concealed-handgun permits has soared, from 4.6 million to 12.8 million. A new study by the Crime Prevention Research Center finds that a record 1.7 million permits have been issued in just the past year, a 15.4 percent increase.

Nationwide, 5.2 percent of adults have a permit.

But in five states, more than 10 percent of adults now have concealed-carry permits. In some counties around the United States, more than 1 in 5 adults are licensed to carry. In much of the country, someone among theatergoers or restaurant customers is likely to be legally carrying a permitted concealed handgun.

But even these numbers don't do full justice to the change that has taken place.

Recently, Maine became the 10th state to allow concealed carrying without a permit in all or almost all of the state. Kansas and Mississippi also made the change on July 1. In these states, we no longer know how many people are legally carrying guns, and thus the 12.8 million figure is clearly an underestimation.

Women increasingly carry guns and hold more than a quarter of concealed-handgun permits. Since 2007, the number of permits among men has grown by 156 percent, and among women by 270 percent.

There is also evidence that minorities are catching on to the benefits of concealed carry. Blacks now make up 7 to 8 percent of permit holders, but their rate of increase is double that of whites.

Poverty presents an obstacle, as permits can be very expensive. In Illinois, for instance, the total cost of getting a permit, including fees and mandated training costs, is about $450. In neighboring Indiana, it is just $45.

> With Democrats typically pushing for higher costs to reduce the number of people with permits, the biggest impact is to disarm the people who are the most likely victims of violent crime, the ones who need the permits the most: poor minorities who live in high-crime urban areas.

With Democrats typically pushing for higher costs to reduce the number of people with permits, the biggest impact is to disarm the people who are the most likely victims of violent crime, the ones who need the permits the most: poor minorities who live in high-crime urban areas.

Changing attitudes also explain the changing composition of permit holders. Since 2012, when the Pew Research Center started asking people if they think guns make them safer, there has been a 25 percent surge in the proportion of blacks who think so. The increase was 11 percent among women — more than the increase among men.

These new permits seem to have worked well. Between 2007 and 2014, murder rates fell from 5.6 to 4.2 deaths per 100,000 (according to preliminary estimates). This 25 percent drop coincided with a 156 percent increase in the number of adults with permits. A similar drop occurred in other violent crimes.

The data have consistently shown that states with the biggest increases in permits also experienced the biggest reductions in murder rates. Dozens of academic papers have documented that allowing concealed carrying leads to a reduction in violent crime, and the Crime Prevention Research Center report shows that this pattern has continued over the last few years.

Permit holders are extremely law-abiding — even more law-abiding than the police, who are rarely convicted of crimes. The latest data from Texas and Florida continue to show that permit holders are convicted of misdemeanors and felonies at less than a sixth the rate that police officers are.

A couple of weeks ago, former CNN anchor Lynne Russell and her husband received national attention for using their permitted concealed handgun to save their lives. Only after the robber started shooting did Russell's wounded husband pull out his gun and return fire.

With more than 12.8 million people legally able to carry handguns, the couple's experience is hardly unique. As dramatic as their story was, it was unusual mainly in that it received national publicity because Russell is so famous. Americans with concealed handguns save lives every day.

TIANANMEN

From Page 10

get it in time before sunset was what I had to deal with. Three hours later and $150 lighter on the wallet, we drove into Beijing past sunset with the laptop.

I took two bottles of Russian beer to my room and called it a day! The moral of the story is to never hack and slurp noodles at the same time!

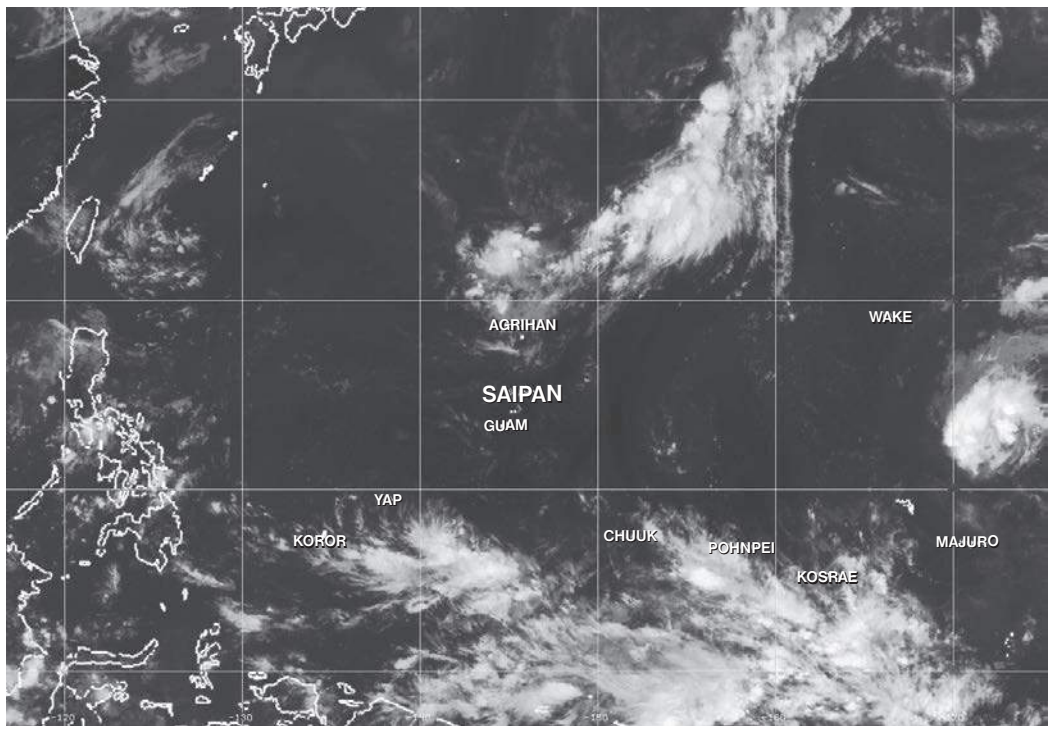
The following day's breakfast was relaxed. My sister and hubby had a whole day before their flight to Honolulu took off at midnight, and I had a train to catch sans reservations for Shenyang. That was six hours of lining up and waiting at a crowded station but that's another story for the telling.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 10N130E across Yap and northern parts of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states through a weak circulation northeast of Majuro near 9N174E to beyond the date line at 7N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen east of Koror and south of Yap between 3N and 8N from 136E to 147E south of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and around Kosrae south of a line from 1N139E to 8N153E to 6N164E to EQ170E. A surface trough curves northeastward from the circulation at 9N174E to 16N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Majuro between 11N and 16N from 170E to 175E. A stationary front curves southwestward from north of 25N159E to 19N145E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring around Minami Tori Shima along and up to 250 miles north of the front.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲56	▼43
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲89	▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼78
London	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼77
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼52
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼74
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼59
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼76
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼76

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.3 Feet
8:08 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:41 PM	3:29 AM
Thursday	5:36 PM	4:26 AM
Friday	6:31 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	7:24 PM	6:27 AM
Sunday	8:15 PM	7:28 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

TOC welcomes Titan Imports as Platinum Sponsor

As part of its ongoing efforts to support community projects and events, Titan Imports—which distributes premium liquors and beverages—has confirmed that it has signed on as a platinum sponsor for the upcoming Tournament of Champions which will be held this weekend. Titan Imports' contribution to the tournament includes premium Chivas for the winners of every flight category.

"For many years, the Tournament of Champions has raised funds that help promote the CNMI as a prime tourist destination," said Rick Lee of Titan Imports. "We wish all the participants of this year's TOC golf tournament luck!"

"The Tournament of Champions has been a great success for the past 20 years thanks to the generosity of companies like Titan Imports," said tournament director Ben Babauta.. "We are grateful for the company's participation in this year's tournament as well as its generosity over the years."

The 20th Annual Tournament of Champions will be played at the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses this weekend on Aug. 1 and 2. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

First place winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 for second, $300 for third, a digital camera to fourth, and $100 DFS gift certificate for fifth place. The Ladies Low Gross champion will receive $500, $400 for second, and $300 for third place. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will receive a trophy.

TOC

Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director (right) and Jeff Taylor, TOC committee member, (center) pose with the Rick Lee of Titan Imports (left). The Tournament of Champions will be held this weekend on Aug. 1 and 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include other brand new vehicles donated by Joeten Motors, Atkins Kroll Toyota, Triple J Motors, and Club C. Pacifica Insurance and Club C are also sponsoring cash prizes as hole-in-one prizes, while Saipan Laolao Golf & Resort is also offering one year of free golf as another hole-in-one prize. Delta Airlines and Asiana Airlines are also offering airline tickets as hole-in-one prizes.

The tournament will also be featuring $1,000 cash prize for closest to pin competition with a 25-year-old bottle of Chivas Regal.

Since its inception, TOC has given over $700,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the former Palm Resort Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and most recently the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 TOC, contact Ben Babauta at 483-2563 or Hillary Agulto at 236-2571. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

USDOE awards $280K to UOG TRIO Student Support Services Program

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the University of Guam $281,511 to fund the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program. The goal of the DOE competitive grant program is to increase college retention and graduation rates for its participants.

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program will provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and motivate students to complete their postsecondary education. The grant will fund services such as tutoring, assistance with course selection and financial aid applications, and financial literacy counseling.

"TRIO is a signature program at the University that exemplifies our commitment to student success and opportunity. Yoichi Rengiil and his team of Tritons helps move the university from good to great," said UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood.

"This grant award will provide the University of Guam with the funds to help improve access to education for students," said Bordallo. "Our students need guidance and encouragement through what can be a daunting educational journey. I commend UOG for their commitment to student success, and am grateful to the U.S. Department of Education for funding this Student Support Services Program to help students at UOG navigate through the college process. I look forward to this grant helping to improve retention at the university and seeing our young people through to graduation." ***(PR)***

Veterans access procedures to USNH Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Last July 9, Director of the Guam Veterans Affairs Office Martin Manglona and Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Andy Anderson met to discuss veterans access to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

Base access procedures have not changed and only veterans (other than retirees) with a scheduled appointment are allowed through the gate. To clarify, the following are the only cases permitted onto the base:

Veterans must present a VA ID card with their appointment letter stating the appointment date and time with the attachment instructing him or her to complete labs two weeks prior to the appointment date.

Veterans must present a VA ID card along with an appointment card (VA FORM 2505) with the date and time with either an MD or RN stamp with a diagonal line through the unused lines. This could be used for same day labs, radiology, pharmacy or specialty clinic appointments or multiple appointments.

If the veteran does not have a VA ID card, he or she may present a valid driver's license at the Visitor Control Center (VCC) with the above documentation of appointment for a one day pass to access the hospital.

If the veteran is unable to drive and requires a person to bring him or her on base, a one day visitor's pass may be obtained at the VCC with the veteran as stated above.

Should the veteran be unable to exit the vehicle to obtain a visitor's pass, the driver assisting should inform the VCC and a security officer will verify the person in the vehicle and issue a one day visitor's pass.

If the veteran requires emergency room care and arrives at the gate, an ambulance will be dispatched to assess the emergency. In the event of an emergency, always dial 911 as ambulances are not stopped at the gate.

For more information, contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2664/2663. ***(PR)***

Karidat to sell old office furniture for small fee

This is to inform the general public that Karidat has cleaned out its old office next to the Mt. Caramel Cemetery.

On July 31, 2015 from 8:30am to 11:30am, Karidat is inviting community members who may be interested in used office furniture—desks, chairs, filing cabinets, to please come by the old Karidat office and for a small suggested donation to take what you need.

Karidat also has non-working office electronics that it would love to find a new home for before it sends it to the landfill.

If you have any questions please call 234-6981. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by the NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTC's. NMHC may allocate **$3,563,034.00** in LIHTCs for the 2015 program year.

Application for LIHTCs.
Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file completed LIHTC Application along with the **$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, August 17, 2015**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **September 1, 2015**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm of September 15, 2015**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **October 2015** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards
NMHC will notify Owner/Developer of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the October 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.
For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Accountant I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 30/01 - $22,576.96 to PL 30/05 - $27, 437.44 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the disqualification of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 30, 2015, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For all inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Position: **Appliance Technician I**
Opening Date: **July 15, 2015** Closing Date: **July 30, 2015**
Salary: **PL 21/01 - $15, 105.87 to PL 21/09 - $22, 302.94 P/A**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)
Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity, lender and employer"

Business

Fiat Chrysler settlement with govt could prove costly

DETROIT (AP)—Fiat Chrysler could be required to lay out hundreds of millions of dollars to get potentially defective Ram pickups and older Jeeps off the road under a deal with safety regulators to settle claims that the automaker mishandled nearly two dozen recalls.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is requiring the company to offer to buy back certain Ram pickup trucks and Dodge and Chrysler SUVs with defective steering parts that can cause drivers to lose control. More than 579,000 vehicles were initially recalled in 2013, but the company would only be required to buy back a third of those because many of the pickups have already been repaired.

The Italian-American automaker must also allow owners of more than a million older Jeeps with vulnerable rear-mounted gas tanks to trade them in at above market value or give them $100 as an incentive to get a repair.

Fiat Chrysler also faces a record civil penalty of up to $105 million. That beats the old record of $70 million assessed against Honda Motor Co. for lapses in reporting deaths and injuries to safety regulators. FCA's fine includes $70 million in penalties, at least $20 million to meet performance requirements and $15 million if an independent recall monitor finds any further violations.

Fiat Chrysler shares traded in the New York Stock Exchange dropped nearly 5 percent to close at $14.41 Monday following the weekend announcement of the deal.

The settlement is the latest sign that auto safety regulators are taking a more aggressive approach toward companies that fail to disclose defects or don't properly conduct a recall.

"Merely identifying defects is not enough," U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said Monday during a conference call with media. "Manufacturers that fail in their duty to fix these defects will pay a price."

Nearly 1.3 million Rams, Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango SUVs and Dodge Dakota pickups from as far back as the 2003 model year were recalled for the steering problem in 2013. The government excluded around 700,000 of the oldest models from the buyback program because most have already been repaired or are no longer on the road.

But it ordered the buyback for up to 579,000 vehicles from the 2008 through 2012 model years. Of those, around 193,000 have not gotten the recall repairs and are eligible for either a repair or a buyback, according to recall reports submitted to the government by Fiat Chrysler.

In each case, Fiat Chrysler would be required to pay the original purchase price plus 10 percent, minus a certain amount for depreciation.

The ultimate cost of the settlement depends on how many pickup and SUV owners join in. According to Kelly Blue Book, a 2010 Dodge Ram 1500—one of the smaller, less-expensive trucks involved in the recalls—could fetch $20,000 in a dealer trade-in, assuming the truck has 60,000 miles on it and is in "good" condition. At that rate, FCA could spend $956 million to buy back one-quarter of the vehicles at issue. The company is allowed to repair and resell the trucks it buys back.

AP

In this Tuesday, May 6, 2014, file photo, the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles sign is seen after being unveiled at Chrysler World Headquarters in Auburn Hills, Mich.

House, Senate clash over highway bill ahead of deadline

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans rebuffed their Senate counterparts Monday over must-pass highway legislation, setting the two chambers on a collision course days ahead of a crucial deadline in the midst of the summer driving season.

As House members convened for their final days of work before an annual August recess, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy ruled out taking up the Senate's highway bill, which is headed for completion in the next several days.

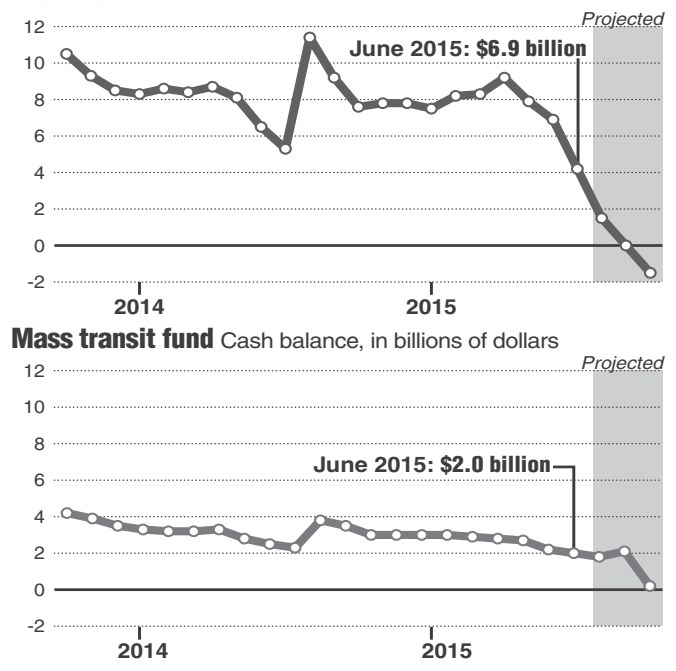
"We're not taking up the Senate bill," the California Republican told reporters at the Capitol, adding that the Senate should instead take up the bill already passed by the House. "My best advice to the Senate is to get our highway bill moved forward," he said.

The House bill is a five-month extension of current programs while the Senate's version authorizes $350 billion in transportation programs for six years, though only three of those are paid for.

Authority for federal highway aid payments to states will expire Friday at midnight without action. At the same time, if Congress doesn't act before then the balance in the federal Highway Trust Fund is forecast to drop below a minimum cushion of $4 billion that's necessary to keep aid flowing smoothly to states.

Highway funding

Congress faces an Aug. 1 deadline to pass a bill that would provide continued funding for the Highway Trust Fund, which supports highway and mass transit construction.



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Graphic: Tribune News Service

Greece launches bailout talks as Plan B details revealed

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's government on Monday launched complex bailout negotiations with creditors, but faced rebuke following revelations that former finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, formed a secret committee to plan for the possible conversion of euros into drachmas "at a drop of a hat."

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said late Monday that meetings in Athens had begun between Greek officials and negotiating teams representing creditors, with talks to intensify Tuesday, paving the way for higher level discussions possibly by the end of the week.

Before the talks started in Athens, a recording of Varoufakis discussing a parallel currency plan was made public.

Opposition parties have criticized Varoufakis and have urged Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to explain to lawmakers what he knew of his former finance minister's actions.

In the recording of a telephone briefing for investors on July 16 in the wake of his resignation days earlier, Varoufakis claimed he and a childhood friend who was a computer expert hacked into his ministry's computer systems as a first step to creating "a parallel banking system" in the event Greek banks were shuttered.

The Greek banks were closed on June 29 to avoid a bank run amid fears that Greece was heading for a euro exit. In theory, a parallel system formed from the effective cloning of tax accounts would have allowed the finance ministry to continue payments in the form of so-called IOUs.

Greece reaches deal

Greece has reached a deal with creditors to avoid euro exit. Before it can receive 85 billion euros ($95.07 billion) in loans and support for its banks to reopen, the Greek government will have to pass a raft of austerity measures that include sales tax increases and reforms to pensions and the labor market.

GREECES PROPOSAL:

TAX REFORM

- Tax increase of 23% on restaurants and catering.
- Scrapping 30% tax break for Greece's wealthiest islands. Only the most remote islands will get to keep the breaks.

FISCAL REFORM

- Military spending will be slashed by 100 million euros this year and double that in 2016.
- Corporate tax will increase from 26 to 28 percent.
- Shipping industry will have tonnage tax increase.
- A luxury tax of 13% for yachts over 5 meters

PENSION REFORM

- Standardizing the retirement age to 67 by 2022 — except for those performing "arduous jobs" and mothers raising kids with a disability.
- Supplementary pension funds will be financed by employees' own contributions.
- Phase-out solidarity grant for pensioners by 2019

Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: Staff Tribune News service

BUSINESS BRIEFS

As Fed meets, it edges toward its first rate hike since 2006

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve is getting close to raising interest rates for the first time in nearly a decade, perhaps in September. When it meets this week, though, don't expect any timetable for a rate hike to be spelled out in a post-meeting statement. For now, the Fed wants to keep its options open. Yet Chair Janet Yellen has left little doubt that the Fed is preparing to raise short-term rates by year's end from the record lows the central bank set at the depths of the 2008 financial crisis. With the U.S. economy and job market now steadily rising, the need for ultra-low rates to stimulate growth is fading. "Our economy is in a much better state," Yellen told Congress earlier this month. "We're close to where we want to be, and we now think the economy can not only tolerate but needs higher rates."

Apple Watch will be sold at some Best Buy stores

NEW YORK (AP)—The Apple Watch is heading to some Best Buy stores ahead of the holiday shopping season. Best Buy Co. says it will sell the Apple Watch at 100 of its stores and on its website on August 7. Another 200 Best Buy stores will offer the smartwatch before the end of the year. Best Buy, which has more than 1,000 stores in the U.S., says it's the first national retailer to sell the watch outside of Apple Inc.'s stores. The retailer, based in Richfield, Minnesota, will offer models of the smartwatch that cost between $349.99 and $699.99. Apple unveiled the watch in September and began taking orders in April. The Cupertino, California, company hasn't released any sale figures for the new device.

Israel's Teva buys Allergan generic drug company for $40.5B

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. said Monday it is purchasing Dublin-based Allergan PLC's generic pharmaceuticals business for $40.5 billion, in what Israeli analysts called the largest-ever acquisition by an Israeli company. Statements from both companies say the deal will see Allergan receive $33.75 billion in cash and shares of Teva valued Monday at $6.75 billion. In light of the acquisition, Teva said it was withdrawing its $40 billion-plus takeover offer for pharmaceuticals company Mylan N.V. Word of the acquisition saw Teva shares shoot up 13 percent in pre-opening trading on the Nasdaq. Trading in Teva shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange halted over the news of the sale.

Nation

Boy Scouts of America end total ban on gay adults

NEW YORK (AP)—The Boy Scouts of America on Monday ended its blanket ban on gay adult leaders while allowing church-sponsored Scout units to maintain the exclusion for religious reasons.

The new policy, aimed at easing a controversy that has embroiled the Boy Scouts for years, takes effect immediately. It was approved by the BSA's National Executive Board on a 45-12 vote during a closed-to-the-media teleconference.

"For far too long this issue has divided and distracted us," said the BSA's president, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates. "Now it's time to unite behind our shared belief in the extraordinary power of Scouting to be a force for good."

Initial reactions to the decision from groups on both sides suggested the issue would remain divisive.

The Mormon church, which sponsors more Scout units that any other organization, said it was "deeply troubled" by the decision. Church officials suggested they would look into the possibility of forming their own organization to replace Boy Scouts.

"The admission of openly gay leaders is inconsistent with the doctrines of the Church and what have traditionally been the values of the Boy Scouts of America," said a statement from Mormon headquarters in Salt Lake City.

In contrast, the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT-rights organization, said the Boy Scouts should not allow church-sponsored units to continue excluding gays.

AP

In this Sunday, June 8, 2014, file photo, a Boy Scout wears his kerchief embroidered with a rainbow knot during Salt Lake City's annual gay pride parade.

"Discrimination should have no place in the Boy Scouts, period," said the HRC's president, Chad Griffin. "BSA officials should now demonstrate true leadership and begin the process of considering a full national policy of inclusion."

Gates foreshadowed Monday's action on May 21, when he told the Scouts' national meeting that the long-standing ban on participation by openly gay adults was no longer sustainable. He said the ban was likely to be the target of lawsuits that the Scouts likely would lose.

Two weeks ago, the new policy was approved unanimously by the BSA's 17-member National Executive Committee. It would allow local Scout units to select adult leaders without regard to sexual orientation—a stance that several Scout councils have already adopted in defiance of the official national policy.

In 2013, after heated internal debate, the BSA decided to allow openly gay youth as scouts, but not gay adults as leaders. Several denominations that collectively sponsor close to half of all Scout units—including the Roman Catholic church, the Mormon church and the Southern Baptist Convention—have been apprehensive about ending the ban on gay adults.

The BSA's top leaders pledged to defend the right of any church-sponsored units to continue excluding gays as adult volunteers. But that assurance has not satisfied some conservative church leaders.

"In recent years I have seen a definite cooling on the part of Baptist churches toward the Scouts," said the Rev. Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "This will probably bring that cooling to a freeze."

A more nuanced response came from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, which expressed interest in maintaining its ties with the BSA, but also voiced concerns. Notably, it conveyed a reluctance to accept participation by anyone who engaged in sexual conduct outside of a heterosexual marriage.

Mental health experts respond carefully to mass killings

NEW YORK (AP)—One psychiatry professor calls it "the conversation we're stuck with," a teachable moment growing out of horror.

Each time mental illness is cited as a possible factor in a high-profile mass killing, there's a collective sigh among mental health professionals. Even as they see an opportunity for serious discussions of problems and remedies, they also worry about setbacks to their efforts to destigmatize mental illness.

"Most people who suffer from mental illness are not violent, and most violent acts are committed by people who are not mentally ill," said Dr. Renee Binder, president of the American Psychiatric Association.

If, hypothetically, everyone with mental illness were locked up, "you might think you were safe, but you are not," Binder said.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health's latest estimate, from 2012, there were an estimated 9.6 million adults in the U.S.—4.1 percent of the total adult population—experiencing serious mental illness over the previous year.

"If you look at that large pool of people, only a tiny proportion of them will eventually commit violence," Binder said. "How are you going to identify them? It's like a needle in a haystack."

Yet public perceptions can be hard to shake. Of the mass shootings of the past 10 years that are most ingrained in America's psyche, the mental health problems of the perpetrator became a central part of the narrative in several cases—notably the rampages at Virginia Tech in 2007, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, at an Aurora, Colorado, movie theater in 2012, and near the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 2014.

WORLD BRIEFS

Judge says she did not involuntarily commit theater gunman

CARROLLTON, Ga. (AP)—The gunman responsible for last week's deadly attack in a Louisiana movie theater was delivered by deputies to hospital for a mental evaluation in 2008 after his family said he was a danger to himself and others. But the judge who ordered him detained said Monday that she did not have him involuntarily committed, which may explain why he was able to legally purchase the gun he used to kill two people and wound nine others before killing himself. His case underscores the concerns raised in the aftermath of other mass shootings involving suspects with mental health issues—and the gaps in the system meant to "red-flag" people ill-suited to own or carry a firearm. While an Alabama sheriff said that he denied Houser's application for a concealed weapons' permit in 2006, there appears to have been nothing in court filings that would raise concerns in the FBI background check system.

Police: Body believed to be missing California girl found

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (AP)—Police say a body believed to be a missing 8-year-old girl has been found inside a trash bin at a complex in Santa Cruz and police have detained a 15-year-old neighbor in the case. Santa Cruz Police Chief Kevin Vogel says the body was found Monday night likely belongs to Madyson Middleton. Vogel says a 15-year-old boy who lives in the complex has been detained in the case and is being questioned.

Madyson Middleton vanished Sunday afternoon from an artist community and housing center in a Northern California beach town where she lives with her mother.

Lawyers: immigrant mothers coerced to wear ankle monitors

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Lawyers representing immigrant mothers held in a South Texas detention center say the women have been denied counsel and coerced into accepting ankle-monitoring bracelets as a condition of release, even after judges made clear that paying their bonds would suffice. In a letter Monday to Sarah Saldana, director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the leaders of a volunteer lawyers' project said they were "dismayed by the lack of transparency, and the coercion, disorganization, and confusion" surrounding recent releases. Among the irregularities cited were summons to courtrooms scrawled on yellow sticky notes, no counsel or judge present in court, and women being told that the prior word of immigration judges "has no value." ICE spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said in a statement that the agency would review the claims and "respond directly" to the lawyers. "ICE takes very seriously the health, safety and welfare of those in our care," the statement added.

NSA will stop looking at old US phone records

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration has decided that the National Security Agency will soon stop examining—and will ultimately destroy—millions of American calling records it collected under a controversial program leaked by former agency contractor Edward Snowden.

When Congress passed a law in June ending the NSA's bulk collection of American calling records after a six-month transition, officials said they weren't sure whether they would continue to make use of the records that had already been collected, which generally go back five years. Typically, intelligence agencies are extremely reluctant to part with data they consider lawfully obtained. The program began shortly after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, but most of the records are purged every five years.

The NSA's collection of American phone metadata has been deeply controversial ever since Snowden disclosed it to journalists in 2013. President Barack Obama sought, and Congress passed, a law ending the collection and instead allowing the NSA to request the records from phone companies as needed in terrorism investigations.

That still left the question of what to do about the records already in the database. On Monday, the Director of National Intelligence said in a statement those records would no longer be examined in terrorism investigations after Nov. 29, and would be destroyed as soon as possible.

The records can't be purged at the moment because the NSA is being sued over them, the statement said.

The NSA queried the database around 300 times a year against phone numbers suspected of being linked to terrorism. But the program was not considered instrumental in detecting terror plots.

It later emerged that some officials inside the NSA wanted to unilaterally stop collecting the records, both because they were concerned about the civil liberties information and because they didn't believe the program was effective. Many mobile phone records, for example, were not collected.

Still, in the event of an attack, the records currently being stored would allow the NSA and the FBI to quickly map connections going back several years. Without the database, that task will be somewhat harder because the records will have to be obtained. And the top terrorism fear among American officials at the moment is an attack by a disgruntled American who has been radicalized by an Islamic State operative abroad.

Asia

PH leader seeks laws to end rebellion, dynasties

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president asked Congress on Monday to pass a troubled Muslim autonomy bill at the heart of efforts to end a bloody rebellion in the country's south and legislation that aims to lessen the stranglehold on power of entrenched political families, which include his.

In his final state of the nation speech before he steps down in 11 months, Benigno Aquino III summed his administration's achievements in battling corruption and poverty—his campaign battle cry in 2010—and thanked just about everyone who backed him, from his late parents, who are revered democracy champions, to his hairstylist.

Among other concerns he raised was the increasingly tense dispute with China over contested South China Sea territories. He called on Filipinos to unite as their country confronts China, which he did not identify by name.

"Our adversary, is by any measure, way ahead whether in terms of influence, economy or military force," Aquino said in the nationally televised address. "But on the basis of reason and love for country, we're not lagging behind."

Relatedly, he said the Philippines, which retired its last fighter jets a decade ago, would soon acquire a dozen FA-50 jets from South Korea, with the first two to be delivered in December, for territorial defense. Two more C-130 cargo planes and more assault helicopters also are being acquired.

One of Aquino's expected major legacies, a peace deal with the largest Muslim rebel group in the country, stalled early this year when some of the rebels from the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front got entangled in a clash that killed 44 anti-terrorism police commandos in southern Mamasapano town.

The commandos managed to kill a top Malaysian terror suspect long wanted by the United States whose real name is Zulkifli bin Hir, a successful assault Aquino cited in his address.

The brutal police deaths, however, sparked public outrage and prompted lawmakers to delay passage of a bill crafted to establish a more powerful and potentially larger autonomous region for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. The Moro rebels dropped their separatist bid in exchange for broader autonomy.

But the delay has set off concerns that some impatient rebels may resume armed hostilities in the south, where smaller but violent armed groups like the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, continue to carry out kidnappings for ransom, bomb attacks and other acts of banditry.

In a surprise turnaround, Aquino told Congress he now backs long-unsuccessful attempts to craft a law that would restrict the number of members of influential families who can run for public office. Anti-dynasty bills, however, have not had any luck in Congress, which is dominated by millionaires who have carried the family names of dominant political clans to public office for generations.

Aquino belongs to an entrenched and wealthy landowning clan which has held power at various levels in the northern province of Tarlac. His late mother, Corazon Aquino, was catapulted to the presidency after helping lead the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"I was opposed to depriving a person of the right to run for office just because of his family name," Aquino said. "But I thought there's also something wrong with giving a corrupt family or individual a chance to wallow in power for life."

Aquino cited the economic gains under his term, when the economy grew by an average of 6.2 percent from 2010, the year he rose to power, to last year. If the economy expands to 6.8 percent this year, Aquino said the six-year average under his presidency would be the highest in nearly six decades.

AP

Philippine President Benigno Aquino III's image is shown on an electronic board as he delivers his last State of the Nation Address during the joint session of the 16th Congress at the House of Representatives in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, July 27, 2015.

Thailand remains blacklisted by US for human trafficking

BANGKOK (AP)—Thai authorities are upset about being blacklisted by the U.S. for the second year in a row for failing to do enough to combat modern-day slavery.

The State Department said Monday that labor abuses in the Southeast Asian country's seafood sector are persistent, abusive and largely ignored by the government. Those abuses have been widely documented in a series of stories this year by The Associated Press which tracked the supply chains of major U.S. retailers to Thai processors selling slave-caught seafood. Those reports have prompted rescues and repatriations of more than 800 men this year.

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Tuesday that Thailand was working on solving the issues and that the assessment was made when his administration, which took over after a military coup last year, was beginning to address the problems.

"We just have to keep working and not to worry. It's an issue of international rules, so we'll have to follow," he told reporters. "Don't worry too much. Their assessment was up to them as they were the ones assessing, not us. We just do our job. What they said in the assessment, we fixed every part of it, but some issues are quicker to fix and some are slow."

The State Department said Monday that Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, and Indonesian men are still subjected to forced labor on Thai fishing boats.

"Some men remain at sea for several years, are paid very little or irregularly, work as much as 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, or are threatened and physically beaten," the report said.

The Royal Thai Embassy in Washington, D.C. denounced the assessment, saying Thailand has made substantial efforts with concrete results to stop human trafficking.

With warning to US, North Korea marks end of Korean War

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean officials warned the United States that another war on the Korean Peninsula would leave no Americans alive to sign a surrender document as the country marked Monday's anniversary of the armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War more than six decades ago.

Pyongyang and other cities around North Korea were decked out with flags and banners as North Koreans flocked to patriotic gatherings and mass dance celebrations to mark the anniversary of the July 27, 1953, agreement that brought the three-year Korean war to an end with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

North Korean officials took the opportunity of the anniversary to step up their anti-U.S. rhetoric and call upon the nation to redouble its devotion to the nation's current leader, Kim Jong Un, the third leader in the Kim dynasty, and prepare for a final showdown with Washington.

The anniversary is hailed in North Korea as a victory over the U.S., which fought with the South Koreans and U.N. allies against the North's forces, who were supported by China and the Soviet Union.

In a speech to veterans on Saturday, Kim Jong Un stressed the importance of instilling the country's young people with the same fighting spirit and devotion as the generation that experienced the war. But he also stressed that North Korea has a new ace in the hole—a nuclear arsenal of its own.

"Gone forever is the era when the United States blackmailed us with nukes; now the United States is no longer a source of threat and fear for us and we are the very source of fear for it," he said in the speech, the text of which was broadcast on North Korean television.

At a separate gathering held Sunday, Korean People's Army Gen. Pak Yong Sik, who is believed to be the country's new defense minister, said that if the United States does not abandon its hostile policies toward Pyongyang and provokes another war, the North is prepared to fight until "there would be no one left to sign a surrender document." "It is more than 60 years since the ceasefire on (the) land, but peace has not yet settled on it," he told the meeting, which included high-level officials, veterans and diplomats stationed in Pyongyang. "The past Korean War brought about the beginning of the downhill turn for the U.S., but the second Korean war will bring the final ruin to U.S. imperialism."

Strong earthquake rocks Indonesia's Papua province

JAYAPURA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake struck Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua early Tuesday panicking people with at least one teenager missing after possibly drowning in a river. Several buildings and houses were either destroyed or damaged.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-7.0 underground quake struck at 6:41 a.m. Tuesday (2141 GMT) and was centered 247 kilometers (153 miles) west of Jayapura, the provincial capital of Papua.

Its depth was measured at 52.9 kilometers (32.8 miles) beneath the remote mountainous region of the island.

"Everyone panicked, they were running from their houses," said Yonas Taufudu, a disaster mitigation official in Jayapura, the capital of Papua province.

He said a 15-year-old boy was feared to have drowned after falling into a river in Memberamo, a mountainous district close to the epicenter, and electricity was cut in some places, including a hospital, which was briefly evacuated.

Hendra Rahman, an official of the Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the quake was felt across the province and that the strongest hit area was Sarmi, a town on the northern coast of the island.

Communication problems in mountain forests and remote areas were hampering efforts to assess the situation, said Sutopo Purwon Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. But at least four houses, a church and two buildings were reportedly either destroyed or damaged in Memberamo.

He said a disaster assessment team and emergency supplies were being flown to the affected areas.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire." A massive earthquake off Sumatra island in 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries, mostly in Indonesia's Aceh province.

World

US, Turkey plan for 'safe zone' free of IS in northern Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey and the United States have agreed on the outlines of a plan to rout the Islamic State group from a strip of Syrian territory along the Turkish border—a plan that opens the possibility of a safe haven for tens of thousands of displaced Syrians but one that also sets up a potential conflict with U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish forces in the area.

The move further embroils Turkey, a key NATO ally, in Syria's civil war, and also catapults it into a front-line position in the global war against IS.

A senior Obama administration official said Monday that U.S. discussions with Turkey about an IS-free zone focused on a 68-mile stretch still under IS control. The U.S. has been conducting airstrikes there, which will accelerate now that the U.S. can launch strikes from Turkish soil, the official said.

No agreement between Turkey and the U.S. has yet been finalized, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations.

In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby said that any joint military efforts with Turkey would not include the imposition of a no-fly zone. The U.S. has long rejected Turkish and other requests for a no-fly zone to halt Syrian government air raids, fearing it would draw U.S. forces further into the civil war.

AP

A police officer checks IDs as Turkish police raid homes in the Haci Bayram neighborhood of the capital Ankara, Turkey, Monday, July 27, 2015.

While details of the buffer-zone plan have yet to be announced, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Ankara and Washington have no intention of sending ground troops into Syria but wanted to see Syria's moderate opposition forces replace IS near the Turkish border.

"Moderate forces like the Free Syrian Army will be strengthened, a structure will be created so that they can take control of areas freed from ISIL, air cover will be provided. It would be impossible for them to take control of the area without it," Davutoglu told Turkey's A Haber television. ISIL is an alternate acronym for the Islamic State group.

The discussions came amid a major tactical shift in Turkey's approach to IS. After months of reluctance, Turkish warplanes started striking militant targets in Syria last week, and allowed the U.S. to launch its own strikes from Turkey's strategically located Incirlik Air Base.

Turkey has also called a meeting of its NATO allies for Tuesday to discuss threats to its security and its airstrikes. Davutoglu said "NATO has a duty to protect" Turkey's border with Syria and Iraq, and that Ankara will seek the alliance's support for its actions at the meeting in Brussels.

But a Turkish-driven military campaign to push IS out of territory along the Turkish border is likely to complicate matters on the ground.

U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria, who have been the most successful in the war against IS, control most of the 910 kilometers (565 miles) boundary with Turkey, and have warned Ankara against any military intervention in northern Syria.

The Islamic State controls roughly a 60-mile stretch of that border, wedged between Turkish-backed insurgents with Islamist ideologies to the left and Kurdish forces from the People's Protection Unit, known as the YPG, to the right.

The Turkish-U.S. plan raises the question of which Syrian rebel forces would be involved in a ground operation against IS. The U.S. has long complained about having no reliable partners among them. Defense Secretary Ash Carter acknowledged earlier this month that the U.S. has only 60 trainees in a program to prepare and arm thousands of moderate Syrian rebels in the fight against IS militants.

NATO holding rare emergency meeting at Turkey's request

BRUSSELS (AP)—For just the fifth time in its 66-year history, NATO ambassadors will meet in emergency session Tuesday to gauge the threat the Islamic State extremist group poses to Turkey, and the debated actions Turkish authorities are taking in response.

The extraordinary meeting at NATO headquarters was requested by Turkey under Article 4 of the treaty that founded the U.S.-led alliance, which empowers its 28 member states to seek such consultations when they consider their "territorial integrity, political independence or security" to be in jeopardy.

It comes as Turkey's security situation "has deteriorated dramatically," Bruno Lete, senior officer for foreign and security policy at the German Marshall Fund, a Brussels think tank, said.

"The rise of Islamic State in northern Iraq, in northern Syria, has effectively destabilized the southern border of Turkey. But also domestically, the threat of terrorism has become very real," Lete told The Associated Press.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who will chair the closed-door session, said Turkey requested it following recent "heinous terrorist attacks," which included an IS suicide bombing near Turkey's border with Syria that left 32 people dead and an IS attack on Turkish forces, which killed a soldier.

"NATO allies follow developments very closely and stand in solidarity with Turkey," Stoltenberg said in announcing Tuesday's meeting of the alliance's main political decision-making body, the North Atlantic Council.

According to official NATO records, there have been only four other so-called Article 4 meetings since the U.S.-led alliance was created in 1949.

Most recently, NATO ambassadors convened in March 2014 at Poland's request following Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Yemen airstrikes resume; 15 allied fighters killed

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The Saudi-led coalition launched new airstrikes in at least two Yemeni provinces on Monday, piercing a humanitarian pause that started at midnight the previous day, security officials said.

The U.S.-backed coalition of mainly Gulf Arab countries has been waging an air campaign since March against the Iran-supported Shiite rebels, who control most of northern Yemen and the capital, Sanaa.

Two of Monday's airstrikes killed 15 fighters allied with the coalition in the province of Lahj, security officials and field commanders said. More than 40 fighters were wounded in the apparently accidental strikes, they said, adding that the death toll was expected to rise. The strikes happened near the strategic military base of al-Anad, which is held by the rebels known as Houthis, and which was also hit by coalition planes Monday. The coalition also struck north of the port city of Aden.

Airstrikes had been halted for hours but ground fighting erupted in multiple provinces within minutes of the start of the unilateral cease-fire late Sunday.

The Houthis said in a statement that they fired missiles across the border at a Saudi military position in the kingdom's Jazan region. The Saudi-owned Al-Hadath news channel said Saudi forces "responded" to Houthi shelling in Jazan, without elaborating.

Fierce clashes also broke out Monday in the nearby town of Sabr, which is on a key supply route. Officials aligned with pro-government fighters say they have regained control of the center of the town and were trying to advance into northern neighborhoods.

Witnesses who fled Sabr on Monday morning said that corpses of fighters lay in the street next to destroyed military vehicles. The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

Colombia unearths landfill looking for scores of disappeared

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AP)—The last contact Margarita Restrepo had with her daughter was a hurried phone call on Oct. 25, 2002. The school day was over and 17-year-old Carol Vanesa was going to meet friends at a metro stop near the sprawling Comuna 13 hillside slum.

Restrepo and her children had fled the violent Medellin neighborhood a few days earlier, right before it was taken over by thousands of Colombian soldiers trying to ferret out leftist rebels. She begged the girl not to risk returning there, but the teen went anyway. Neither she nor her two friends have been seen again and, to this day, nobody knows who is responsible for their disappearance.

Thirteen years later, Restrepo and dozens of others who have missing loved ones are closer than ever to closure thanks to a project to remove 31,000 cubic yards (24,000 cubic meters) of rubble from La Escombrera, a debris landfill on Medellin's outskirts where the remains of as many as 300 people are believed to have been dumped during one of the darkest chapters of Colombia's long-running civil conflict.

At a ceremony Monday to remember the missing and kick off the search effort, officials joined more than 100 women who dressed in white and carried black, plastic silhouettes to represent their loved ones. After years of silence on the part of the government and much of society, supporters of the families welcomed the start of the work.

"This is the site of one of the most atrocious episodes that weigh down our history and is a stain on our national identity before the entire world," Javier Giraldo, a Roman Catholic priest and human rights activist, said following a Mass to honor the victims.

Human rights activists say La Escombrera could prove to be the largest mass grave ever found in Colombia and the dig represents a glimmer of hope that justice will be realized. But the search will be complicated. Despite more than a decade-long clamor by victims' families that the landfill be closed and excavated, giant trucks have continued to dump construction waste daily.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Celebrating the crape myrtle in summer

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

MCT
The Ebony Flame crape myrtle is a small tree, growing 12 feet tall and eight feet wide. It has intense black leaves that contrast with bright red flowers.

MCT
The Ebony & Ivory crape myrtle is a small tree, growing 12 feet tall and eight feet wide. It has intense black leaves that contrast with pure white flowers

Nothing says summer like the 100 days of flowers on crape myrtles that line streets and dot yards in Southern cites.

In southeastern Virginia, the crape myrtle has a long and storied history, and July is its peak bloom time.

In 1922, the Garden Club of Norfolk persuaded the Norfolk City Council to name the crape myrtle Norfolk's official tree, according to Brian O'Neil, director of horticulture at Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk.

"Their bloom period coincides with summer flowering roses, hydrangeas, perennials such as daylilies and cannas, and other plants, making a truly floriferous garden composition," says O'Neil.

"The blooming trees draw your eye upward into the blue summer sky, allowing the viewer to take in the entire garden setting from the ground on up."

Feverish with crape myrtle love, Norfolk Botanical Garden's first Director Fred Heutte proposed and organized the first Norfolk Crape Myrtle Festival in 1951, in honor of the city's official flower. That festival no longer exists, but McDonald Garden Center, in Hampton Roads, Va., has sponsored a similar July event for the past 33 years.

Today, crape myrtles, members of the Lagerstroemia indica family, are still revered as summer's spectacular tree in cold hardy gardening zones that go into Zone 6 — some say Zone 5 for well-established roots. Northern folks who see the plants on southern trips have been known to plant them in large pots and winter them in temperate garages.

While crape myrtles are showy, they can also be fragrant, especially older species, according to O'Neil. There is a size to fit every growing space because the various cultivars range from groundcovers less than three feet tall to majestic standalone trees 35 feet tall.

You can see more than 400 crape myrtles in various sizes and colors at Norfolk Botanical Garden—www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org. In 2014, the collection was certified as a national collection of Lagerstroemia by the North American Plant Collections Consortium, a program managed by the American Public Garden Association, according to O'Neil.

"We are the only national collection of crape myrtle in the nation," he says.

Crape myrtle 101

With the large number of varieties available, selecting a crepe myrtle is easy, according to Jake VanDyke, a buyer at McDonald Garden Center in Hampton, Va.

"First you must identify what size plant you want—shrub, small tree or large tree," he says.

"Then, select the variety and color that most appeals to you from among the options in that size category."

Your crape myrtle will flower better and longer if you plant it in a spot that gets lots of sun throughout the day, he adds.

Just after the tree is planted, fertilize it and continue to water it.

"Once crape myrtles are rooted in, they are extremely drought tolerant, but when first planted, they will need regular watering," he says.

10 best crape myrtles

McDonald Garden Center suggests these crape myrtles for home gardens:

Tuscarora: Broad, vase-shaped tree, growing up to 25 feet tall and wide, bearing watermelon-red flowers. One of the longest blooming varieties. Spectacular peeling bark; red-orange fall color.

Dynamite: Upright tree, growing up to 20 feet tall and wide; deep red flowers; red-orange fall color.

Natchez: Vase-shaped tree, growing up to 30 feet tall and wide. Pure white flowers; red-orange fall color. One of the longest blooming varieties. Bark peels to a beautiful cinnamon color.

Muskogee: Vase-shaped tree, growing up to 25 feet tall and wide. Light lavender flowers; red-orange fall color. One of the longest blooming varieties. Bark peels to a beautiful chestnut color.

Catawba: Upright tree, growing up to 15 feet tall and wide. Deep purple flowers; red-orange fall color.

Tonto: Compact, rounded tree, growing up to 12 feet tall and wide. Dark fuchsia flowers; bright maroon fall color.

Ebony & Ivory (new): Small tree, growing 12 feet tall and eight feet wide. Intense black leaves contrast with pure white flowers.

Ebony Flame (new): Small tree, growing 12 feet tall and eight feet wide. Intense black leaves contrast with bright red flowers.

Princess Holly Ann (new): Compact, upright shrub-type, growing four feet tall. Cherry red flowers; purplish-red fall color.

Princess Lyla (new): Mounding, low-growing shrub-type, growing one- to two-feet tall and wide. Light pink flowers; gold fall color. Great for beds and containers.

Living Smart: Ideas to organize your pantry cabinet

By SHANNON ANTINORI
ANGIE'S LIST

MCT
Grouping similar items together is the first step to creating order in your pantry.

The key to a decluttered kitchen starts with pantry organization—but tackling shelf upon shelf of cans, boxes and bags of food can be daunting.

Professional organizer Erin Kelly says her company, Chicago-based Arranged by Erin, frequently gets calls from homeowners looking for help with their out-of-control pantry cabinets.

"It's a time thing," she says. "People get very overwhelmed. That's why a lot of them call."

While a home organizer can organize your pantry for you, you can also do it yourself with a few pointers.

Create categories

When it comes to organizing the pantry, grouping similar items together is critical.

"The important thing is to zone your pantry," Kelly says.

Make one section for pasta, one for canned fruits, one for vegetables, one for spices and so on, Kelly advises.

Grouping items by category will help you cut down your cooking time by eliminating the need to hunt through the pantry for a certain item.

"The best thing is to pull everything out, wipe (the pantry) down and put it all back by category," Kelly says.

If you have a child or relative with allergies or special dietary needs, keep their items on a separate shelf or in a certain "zone." Kelly also recommends labeling items to help a nanny or babysitter know which items are OK for each child to have.

Save money with storage

Creative storage options won't just keep your pantry cabinet neat—they can also save you money.

People wind up buying duplicates of items because they can't see what they've got hiding in the depths of the pantry, Kelly says.

"It's tempting to stock up, but I don't need three ketchups in my pantry," Kelly says. Deep pantry shelves can add to the problem, making it difficult to see what's in stock.

Retailers like The Container Store and Target sell clear storage containers that are perfect for storing items like spices, packets and pastas, Kelly says.

Plastic stair-stepper organizers are good for storing items like canned goods, making it easy to see what's there, she adds. Stackable shelving and wire baskets can also help you declutter and keep items visible.

Being able to see what you have will help you re-evaluate the way you shop, saving you time, pantry space and money, Kelly says.

Once you can see what you have, you can make a running list of what's in stock and what needs to be added to your weekly shopping list.

Find a spot for overflow

If your pantry cabinet is just not fulfilling your space needs, it may be time to find a place for your kitchen overflow.

Kelly cautions against using a garage or mudroom for extra food storage, since that can attract mice.

"I like the idea of shelves or cabinets in the basement area," she says.

Kelly recommends basement storage for items that aren't used every day, such as pots, pans and extra canned goods.

Life & Style

Bobby Brown 'completely numb' after death of daughter

ATLANTA (AP)—R&B singer Bobby Brown said Monday that his daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, was "an angel" and that the family must find a way to honor her memory.

Bobbi Kristina, the daughter of singer Whitney Houston, died Sunday in hospice care, six months after she was found face-down in a bathtub in her suburban Atlanta townhome. Authorities are investigating her death.

"Krissy was and is an angel," her father said in a statement. "I am completely numb at this time. My family must find a way to live with her in spirit and honor her memory. Our loss is unimaginable."

Bobbi Kristina had been hospitalized for months in Atlanta—eventually being placed in hospice care—after being found in a manner grimly similar to the way her megastar mother died three years earlier.

A police report earlier this year described the incident as a drowning. In a statement Monday, the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office said an autopsy will be needed to evaluate what led to the death of Bobbi Kristina, but the time that has elapsed since the autopsy will complicate the investigation. The medical examiner did not release a timeframe for the autopsy, but said additional lab testing might take several weeks.

"Interpretation of autopsy findings and other information will also be challenging," the medical examiner's office said. "However, an autopsy could be helpful to address questions which may arise about the cause of her unresponsiveness and eventual death."

Bobbi Kristina was the only child of Whitney Houston and R&B singer Bobby Brown.

"She is finally at peace in the arms of God. We want to again thank everyone for their tremendous amount of love and support during these last few months," Kristen Foster, a representative for the Houston family said Sunday.

Nick Gordon, who shared her townhome with her, said at the time it seemed Bobbi Kristina wasn't breathing and lacked a pulse before help arrived.

"The Roswell Police Department continues its investigation into the circumstances preceding and surrounding the time of the original incident leading to her death," the medical examiner said.

Born and raised in the shadow of fame and litigation, shattered by the loss of her mother, Bobbi Kristina was overwhelmed by the achievements and demons of others before she could begin to figure out who she was.

Bobbi Kristina—the sole heir of her mother's estate—did have dreams.

She identified herself on Twitter as "Daughter of Queen WH," "Entertainer/Actress" with William Morris & Co., and "LAST of a dying breed." She told Oprah Winfrey shortly after her mother's death in 2012 that she wanted to carry on her mother's legacy by singing, acting and dancing. But her career never took off.

She became a social media sensation, sending more than 11,000 tweets and attracting 164,000 followers.

As the news of her death spread across social media, several celebrities tweeted their condolences.

Grammy-winning performer Missy Elliot tweeted, "My heart is truly heavy. May u rest in peace with your mommy (hash) BobbiKristina sending prayers 2 the Brown/Houston family."

"Empire" star Taraji P. Henson tweeted, "Rest in heaven."

And Winfrey tweeted, "Peace at Last!"

Whitney Houston, known as "America's Sweetheart," was an impossible act to follow.

The late singer sold more than 50 million records in the United States alone during her career. Her voice, an ideal blend of power, grace and beauty, made classics out of songs like "Saving All My Love For You," "I Will Always Love You" and "The Greatest Love of All." She earned six Grammys and starred in the films "The Bodyguard" and "The Preacher's Wife."

Bobby Brown, who had a bad-boy image, also became a huge star, selling platinum records with New Edition and going solo before drugs and legal woes derailed his career.

Bobbi Kristina appeared alongside both parents in 2005 on the Bravo reality show "Being Bobby Brown," which captured her parents fighting, swearing and appearing in court. The Hollywood Reporter said it revealed that Brown was "even more vulgar than the tabloids suggest," and managed "to rob Houston of any last shreds of dignity."

After their divorce in 2007, Houston kept custody of Bobbi Kristina and raised her alongside Gordon, an orphan three years older than her daughter. Houston brought Gordon into her family, and while she never formally adopted him or included him in the will, both teenagers called her "mom."

The threesome's tight bond was shattered when Houston's assistant found the singer's lifeless body face-down in a foot of water in her bathtub at the Beverly Hilton Hotel just before the Grammy Awards in 2012. Authorities found prescription drugs in the suite, and evidence of heart disease and cocaine in her body, but determined her death was an accidental drowning.

Bobbi Kristina, then 18, was at the hotel and became so hysterical she had to be hospitalized. "She wasn't only a mother, she was a best friend," she told Winfrey.

She and Gordon then went public with their romance, posting defiant messages online after the tabloids accused them of incest.

Relations between Gordon and some other relatives soured over the past year after Bobbi Kristina was hospitalized. A protective order barred him from being within 200 feet of Pat Houston, Bobbi Kristina's aunt. A feud erupted over whether Gordon could visit Bobbi Kristina while she stayed in the hospital.

On June 24, Bobbi Kristina's court-appointed representative sued Gordon, accusing him of misrepresenting his relationship with Bobbi Kristina. The complaint accused him of being violent toward her and taking more than $11,000 from her account while she was in a medically induced coma.

The lawsuit also accused Gordon of assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, unjust enrichment and conversion.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said he and his office are interested in reviewing the investigative file to determine whether any charges will be filed.

AP
In this Sept. 1, 2009 file photo, singer Whitney Houston, right, sings with her daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown during a performance on "Good Morning America" in Central Park in New York.

Cosby appeals ruling that unsealed deposition excerpts

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers on Monday appealed a judge's decision to unseal court filings that quote him saying he obtained quaaludes to give women before sexual encounters.

The newly public court filings contain excerpts of Cosby's deposition in a 2005 lawsuit in Pennsylvania that accused him of sexual battery, and were unsealed July 6 on a bid by The Associated Press.

The full deposition has since been released by a court reporting service and contains Cosby's only testimony under oath about accusations he sexually assaulted a string of women, including the plaintiff, former Temple University employee Andrea Constand.

Cosby acknowledges several of the encounters but said they were consensual. More than two dozen women have accused him of molesting them, sometimes after they had been drugged. Two lawsuits are pending, a defamation suit in Massachusetts and a civil sexual-assault case in California.

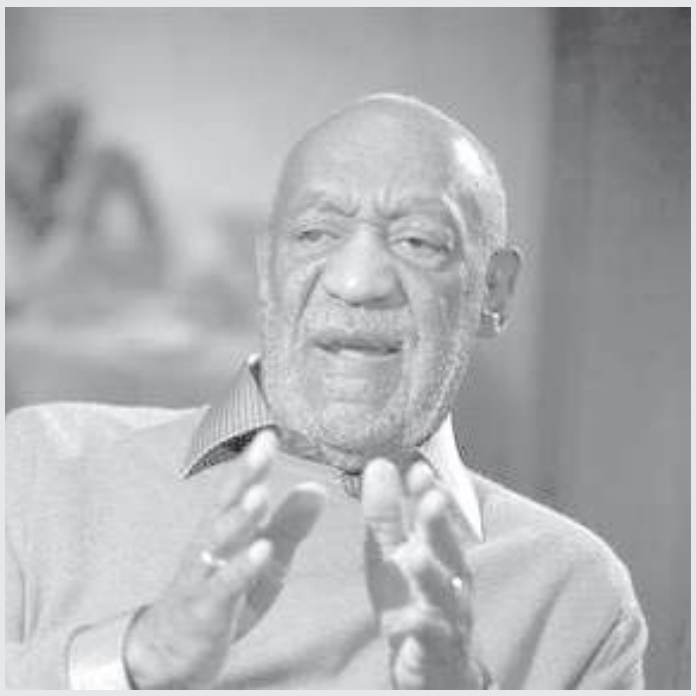
Cosby has been unsuccessful in his efforts to avoid a deposition in the latter case by having the suit, filed by lawyer Gloria Alred, thrown out.

Cosby's lawyers did not immediately return calls for comment Monday from the AP. They have not yet outlined the reasons for their appeal—and many of the deposition excerpts have been widely distributed since their July 6 release.

U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno unsealed 16 court filings after concluding that the "stark contrast between Bill Cosby, the public moralist and Bill Cosby, the subject of serious allegations concerning improper (and perhaps criminal) conduct" was a matter of public interest.

Cosby, in his deposition, testified that he had a consensual relationship with Constand, and said the pills he gave her in early 2004 were Benadryl. She believed she was drugged with something stronger and then sexually assaulted at his home while she was only semi-conscious.

The parties came to a confidential settlement after Cosby finished his deposition in 2006. Both sides have since accused the other of violating the agreement through press statements, and Constand's lawyer wants the confidentiality clause lifted.



AP
In this Nov. 6, 2014 file photo, entertainer Bill Cosby gestures during an interview at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art in Washington.

Mariah Carey to receive star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariah Carey will receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next week.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced Monday that Carey will get the 2,556th star on Aug. 5. Guest speakers will include directors Lee Daniels and Brett Ratner, as well as Epic Records CEO and longtime Carey collaborator L.A. Reid.

Carey is one of the most successful acts in music. She has 18 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, sold millions of albums and won a number of awards, including five Grammys.

She recently launched a residency in Las Vegas where she performs her No. 1 hits, including "Vision of Love," "Hero" and "We Belong Together."

AP

In this May 17, 2015 file photo, Mariah Carey arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Hulk Hogan takes to Twitter after WWE cuts ties

NEW YORK (AP)—Hulk Hogan is taking to Twitter in the aftermath of World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. cutting ties with him amid a report that the wrestling star used racial slurs in a conversation captured on a sex tape.

The 61-year-old reached out to his 1.3 million followers in a series of tweets this weekend, thanking them for their support and saying he was "overwhelmed by the love."

"I will prove who I really am," he wrote in another tweet.

Hogan's publicist confirmed Monday that Hogan is using his Twitter account to retweet messages of support and respond to fans.

WWE has not said why it ended its relationship with the "Hulkmania" star. In announcing the break, the company said it is "committed to embracing and celebrating individuals from all backgrounds as demonstrated by the diversity of our employees, performers and fans worldwide."

Hogan apologized for using "offensive language" Friday but refused to offer further comment on Monday.

He is currently seeking $100 million from the website Gawker for posting part of the sex tape of him with Heather Cole, the ex-wife of Hogan's one-time friend and radio show host Bubba the Love Sponge Clem.

AP

In this Oct. 15, 2012 file photo, former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, arrives for a news conference at the United States Courthouse in Tampa, Fla.

Box Office Top 20: 'Ant-Man' beats 'Pixels' by a tentacle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He might be tiny and one of Marvel's lesser-known properties, but "Ant-Man" has power—especially at the box office. The superhero pic held the No. 1 spot for the second weekend in a row with $24.9 million, bumping its domestic total over the $100 million mark.

The Marvel/Disney pic proved slightly more of a draw than Pac-Man and his 1980s arcade counterparts in "Pixels," which debuted to $24 million. The Adam Sandler end-of-the-world comedy cost $88 million to produce and has a rocky path toward domestic profitability ahead.

Boasting the smallest screen count in the top five, the R-rated boxing drama "Southpaw" surprised with a healthy $16.7 million weekend, while the YA adaptation of John Green's "Paper Towns" proved that it hasn't quite found its audience yet. The film earned only $12.7 million. It's already passed its $12 million budget, but it clearly doesn't have the expected widespread appeal of last year's "The Fault in Our Stars."

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Rentrak:

1. **"Ant-Man,"** Disney, $24,909,332, 3,868 locations, $6,440 average, $106,219,861, 2 weeks.
2. **"Pixels,"** Sony, $24,011,616, 3,723 locations, $6,450 average, $24,011,616, 1 week.
3. **"Minions,"** Universal, $22,933,960, 4,066 locations, $5,640 average, $262,454,370, 3 weeks.
4. **"Trainwreck,"** Universal, $17,281,950, 3,171 locations, $5,450 average, $61,526,975, 2 weeks.
5. **"Southpaw,"** The Weinstein Company, $16,701,294, 2,772 locations, $6,025 average, $16,701,294, 1 week.
6. **"Paper Towns,"** 20th Century Fox, $12,650,140, 3,031 locations, $4,174 average, $12,650,140, 1 week.
7. **"Inside Out,"** Disney, $7,414,528, 2,717 locations, $2,729 average, $320,393,339, 6 weeks.
8. **"Jurassic World,"** Universal, $7,181,175, 2,645 locations, $2,715 average, $624,083,950, 7 weeks.
9. **"Mr. Holmes,"** Roadside Attractions, $2,868,335, 686 locations, $4,181 average, $6,451,225, 2 weeks.
10. **"Terminator Genisys,"** Paramount, $2,417,910, 1,702 locations, $1,421 average, $85,683,524, 4 weeks.
11. **"Magic Mike XXL,"** Warner Bros., $1,877,169, 1,440 locations, $1,304 average, $63,144,247, 4 weeks.
12. **"Gallows, The,"** Warner Bros., $1,181,120, 1,202 locations, $983 average, $21,355,856, 3 weeks.
13. **"Ted 2,"** Universal, $970,920, 696 locations, $1,395 average, $79,627,410, 5 weeks.
14. **"The Vatican Tapes,"** Lionsgate, $832,271, 427 locations, $1,949 average, $832,271, 1 week.
15. **"Max,"** Warner Bros., $771,151, 665 locations, $1,160 average, $39,779,691, 5 weeks.
16. **"Spy,"** 20th Century Fox, $767,938, 539 locations, $1,425 average, $108,107,713, 8 weeks.
17. **"Amy,"** A24 Films, $726,680, 370 locations, $1,964 average, $5,543,072, 4 weeks.
18. **"Mad Max: Fury Road,"** Warner Bros., $418,192, 345 locations, $1,212 average, $151,622,298, 11 week.
19. **"Baahubali (Telugu),"** BlueSky Cinemas, $346,724, 125 locations, $2,774 average, $6,680,280, 3 weeks.
20. **"San Andreas,"** Warner Bros., $333,701, 266 locations, $1,255 average, $151,885,432, 9 weeks.

AP

This photo provided by Disney shows Paul Rudd as Scott Lang/Ant-Man in a scene from Marvel's "Ant-Man."

Hidden security cameras are shocking surprise for daughter

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 19-year-old woman in college who still lives with my parents. I found out something several weeks ago that's bothering me, and I need advice badly.

Years ago, after a robbery, my parents installed security cameras outside our house. I knew about them because they were visible. But apparently some were installed that I knew nothing about.

I have done things while alone to help control certain feelings, and I have also walked around without much on when my parents were away and never thought anything about it. Ever since I found out, I have been freaking out.

I don't want to make a big deal about it because I'm afraid if my parents didn't look at anything before, then they will now. I want to know if they have seen what I was doing. Part of me says to ignore this because they're family -- so who cares. My parents have never said anything about seeing me.

We're Catholics, and I have heard the lecture about avoiding self-gratification ever since I can remember. I'm very careful about what I do now, but I am still bothered. Should I just forget and move on, or should I ask?

POSSIBLY PARANOID

DEAR POSSIBLY PARANOID: If your parents had been viewing the security footage and felt you were doing something wrong, you would have heard about it from them by now. What you need to know is that masturbation is normal. It is not depraved, a crime or harmful to your health. ALL normal boys and girls (and some adults, too) practice this natural type of sexual gratification. (If it makes you feel guilty because you have been told it's "wrong," then stop doing it.) Now, forget about it and move on.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay male and my boyfriend of three years just confessed to me that he's been cheating on me for the better part of our relationship. We went to counseling in an attempt to repair the damage that was done, and to see if I could regain any of the trust that I once had in him. During our counseling session he told me that he was sleeping with his stepbrother. I had forgiven him prior to this disclosure and thought I could move past it, but I'm no longer sure I can.

Before he told me about the cheating, I had bought an engagement ring for him and was nearly finished paying for it. Now I am unsure if I want to pay it off because I am so appalled about what has transpired. On the other hand, I'm afraid it will affect my credit history if I don't. What would you do if you were in my position?

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CAN'T MOVE PAST IT

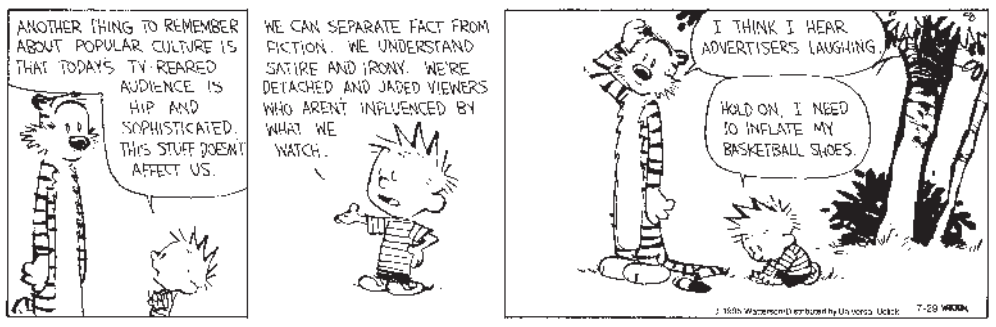
DEAR CAN'T MOVE PAST IT: A partner who would cheat on you for that length of time has a character deficiency and will probably do it again. If I were in your position, I'd end the relationship, finish paying for the ring and then cut my losses by selling it. That way, all of the payments you have made won't go down the tubes, and your credit rating will be intact.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

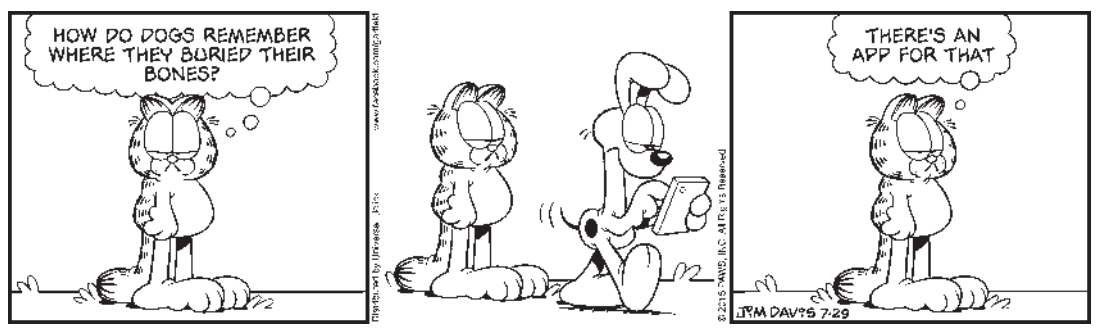
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ANOTHER THING TO REMEMBER ABOUT POPULAR CULTURE IS THAT TODAY'S TV-REARED AUDIENCE IS HIP AND SOPHISTICATED. THIS STUFF DOESN'T AFFECT US.
WE CAN SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION. WE UNDERSTAND SATIRE AND IRONY. WE'RE DETACHED AND JADED VIEWERS WHO AREN'T INFLUENCED BY WHAT WE WATCH.
I THINK I HEAR ADVERTISERS LAUGHING.
HOLD ON, I NEED TO INFLATE MY BASKETBALL SHOES.

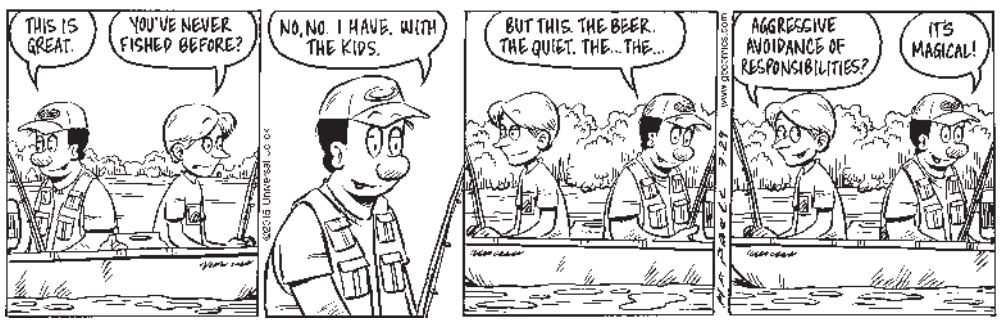
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



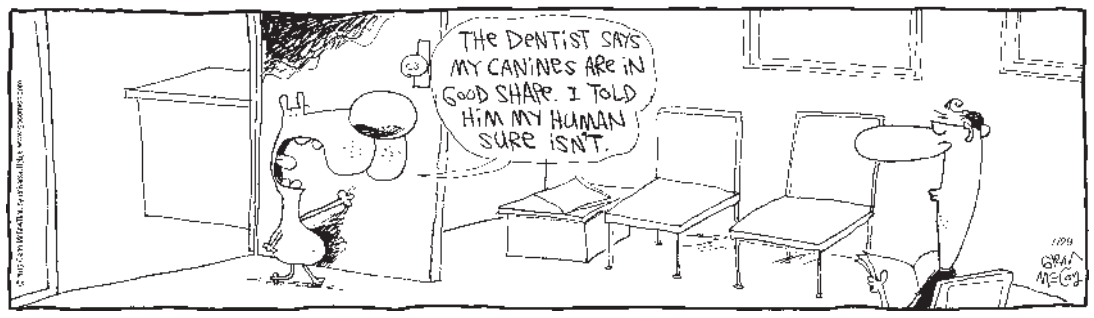
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS IS GREAT.
YOU'VE NEVER FISHED BEFORE?
NO, NO. I HAVE. WITH THE KIDS.
BUT THIS. THE BEER. THE QUIET. THE...THE...
AGGRESSIVE AVOIDANCE OF RESPONSIBILITIES?
IT'S MAGICAL!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

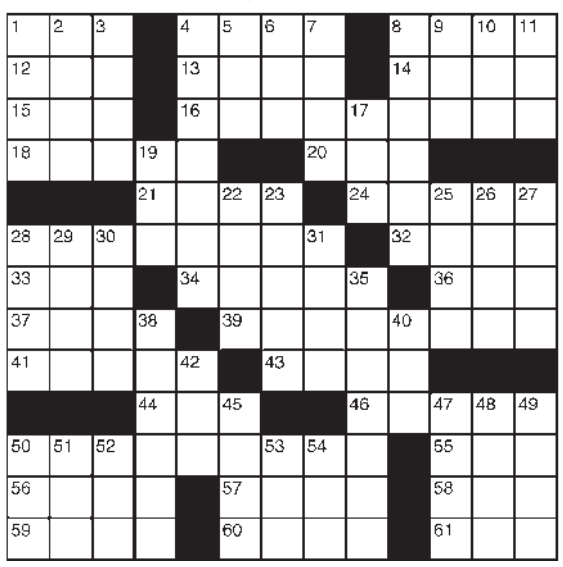
ACROSS
1 Request
4 Mac-Donald's place
8 Woman of the knight
12 Skedaddle
13 Curved molding
14 Blood-hound's clue
15 Lemieux milieu
16 Ruthless, as a competition
18 Winning
20 Twitch
21 Honey bunch?
24 Hotel area
28 Likely loser
32 Swampy terrain
33 "A pox upon thee!"
34 Above, to an editor
36 Predetermine
37 Watch wolfishly
39 Carnival goer's lunch, maybe
41 Bookcase component
43 "Wheel of Fortune" option
44 Commotion
46 Legerdemain
50 Basic swimming stroke
55 Praise in verse
56 Rainbow
57 Slay
58 Anti-quated
59 Kelly or Siskel
60 Calendar abbr.
61 Turn blue?

DOWN
1 Met melody
2 "— is life"
3 Elbow counterpart
4 Animals' entrees
5 In olden times
6 Rule, for short
7 Encounter
8 E-biz
9 Toss into the mix
10 Cattle call
11 Work unit
17 Have a bug
19 Honest politician
22 Learning (Abbr.)
23 Future juniors
25 Robin, e.g.
26 Vivacity, to the maestro
27 Safe-cracker
28 Fleet from far away?
29 Close by
30 Takeout order?
31 Clench
35 Food
38 Pass by
40 — jiffy
42 Medicine approval org.
45 Probability
47 Suitable
48 Without acting
49 Relinquish
50 Use a shovel
51 Raw rock
52 Card-player's call
53 Fawn's mama
54 Back talk

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	V	A	L	■	A	C	E	■	T	O	W	N
V	I	C	A	■	D	O	N	■	E	R	I	E
S	C	H	M	O	O	Z	E	■	D	E	N	S
K	F	Y	■	P	R	Y	■	S	H	O	O	T
■	■	■	S	E	E	■	Y	O	U	■	■	■
R	O	U	N	D	■	M	I	N	G	L	E	D
O	R	S	O	■	S	U	N	■	H	O	M	E
D	R	A	W	L	E	D	■	N	E	X	U	S
■	■	■	S	I	X	■	G	U	S	■	■	■
L	I	G	H	I	■	S	U	M	■	A	V	E
O	S	L	O	■	T	H	E	B	L	U	E	S
C	L	U	E	■	W	A	S	■	S	I	E	P
H	E	M	S	■	O	D	S	■	D	O	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 7-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lori Loughlin, 51; Sally Struthers, 68; Jim Davis, 70, Peter Cullen, 74. Happy Birthday: Good fortune comes from trying new things and exploring options. An open mind and a desire to make things happen will guide you in a direction that will change the way you view life, as well as how you live it in the future. Form your own opinions and make decisions that fit into your lifestyle. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 27, 36, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't sit back when you have so much energy to channel. Try to keep busy and accomplish all you can rather than let pent up emotions turn to anger. Choose your battles wisely and you will come out on top.✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be tempted to get involved in something you have little control over. Consider the consequences if the outcome doesn't live up to your expectations. You should be investing in yourself and your skills, not in what someone else is doing.✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep working and elaborating on a plan you want to share with a partner or teammate. Much can be accomplished if you are willing to share ideas as well as incorporate positive adaptations to your original plans.✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your personal life will interfere with your professional advancement if you don't separate one from the other. Look for opportunities that allow you to use the skills you enjoy the most. Don't settle for a job that doesn't stimulate you.✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Embrace changes and challenges. Opportunities will unfold if you let others know what you are capable of doing. Don't let indecision regarding a connection or proposal cause unnecessary confusion. Put the past behind you and you will excel.✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let anyone confuse you. Size up your situation and act on what you see firsthand. Emotional responses must be handled carefully to avoid a misunderstanding. Take time out and do something you enjoy. A little pampering will go a long way.✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts and find out what the general consensus is among those you respect and trust to give you an honest answer. The advice given will help you make the best choice regarding an opportunity that interests you.✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take any unnecessary chances. Problems with communication or while traveling to unfamiliar places are likely. Stick close to home and work on personal endeavors that will help improve both your home and your personal life.✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your outgoing, can-do attitude will lead to positive change and greater popularity. However, don't put yourself at risk by trying to do physical tasks that are beyond your capabilities. Ask for assistance and show what a good team player you can be.✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will experience tension and add to your stress if you feel you are being pushed to do something that you feel is questionable. Concentrate on a project that is within your means that you can do alone at your own pace.✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your thoughts into motion. You will be praised for the contributions you make and your ability to make everyone around you feel like an important part of your plans. Do a good job and avoid criticism and interference.✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your intuition will not lead you astray. Don't hesitate to work alone if it will spare you from dealing with someone who is negative or always trying to outdo you. Learn from past experiences and protect against anyone trying to take over. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, sensitive and protective. You are disciplined and determined.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	4	8					
5				3		9	6	
7			2		4			
4		5		1	8			
	9		5	4		3		
		1	9		6	4		
	4			2	1		9	6
	6					1	3	
						2		

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	5	1	2	9	3	8	6	4
2	4	3	5	8	6	1	9	7
9	6	8	4	7	1	2	5	3
6	9	7	8	3	5	4	1	2
4	8	5	1	2	9	3	7	6
3	1	2	7	6	4	5	8	9
1	3	4	6	5	7	9	2	8
8	7	9	3	1	2	6	4	5
5	2	6	9	4	8	7	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LAKESIDE COTTAGES **Solution: 4 letters**

Y	K	S	G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	L	I	M	A	F
R	R	A	A	N	S	N	E	H	C	T	I	K	S	I
E	E	T	Y	T	I	S	T	E	P	W	H	C	T	R
N	C	S	N	A	E	T	F	L	S	S	S	O	N	E
E	R	T	O	U	K	L	A	S	N	M	I	M	E	P
E	E	E	C	R	O	N	L	O	U	D	F	M	D	I
R	A	S	L	G	T	C	I	I	B	M	O	A	I	T
G	T	N	A	S	A	T	N	A	T	O	M	H	S	R
N	I	U	B	B	C	I	D	E	R	E	Ⓒ	E	E	E
I	O	S	I	A	M	M	N	D	G	A	Ⓐ	N	R	E
E	N	N	R	O	I	N	E	N	E	O	Ⓜ	J	E	S
O	S	T	D	N	I	B	U	B	C	K	Ⓟ	O	L	A
N	T	N	T	S	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	Y	A	N
A	O	O	V	O	L	L	E	Y	B	A	L	L	X	D
C	N	S	C	I	N	C	I	P	R	I	V	A	C	Y

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Attractions, Badminton, Balcony, Beach, Bedroom, Boating, Cabins, Camp, Canoeing, Condominiums, Country, Enjoy, Family, Fire Pit, Fish, Getaway, Golf, Greenery, Hammock, Holiday, Kayak, Kitchens, Lounge, Pets, Picnics, Plants, Privacy, Recreation, Relax, Residents, Resort, Sandy, Satellite, Summer, Sunsets, Swim, Tennis, Trees, Volleyball

Yesterday's Answer: Eggs

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Holy grail

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

(2) Accounting Clerk – At least 2 years' experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as, MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(1) Barber – One to Two years' experience as a Barber. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors & Hair High-lights.

(1) Electrician – At least 2 years' experience. Proficient on layout & installation of electrical wiring, machinery and other equipment.

(1) Sewing Machine Operator – High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(1) Inventory Clerk – High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(1) Store Keeper – At least a High School Graduate and with 2 years' experience. Trustworthy and willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. • Tel: 235-7270

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Maintenance – At least a High School Graduate with a valid driver's license. Ability to efficiently use various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral and written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

(1) Auto Mechanic – Must have at least 2 years work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/repair skills of vehicle systems. High self-motivation.

(4) Trash Collector – At least a High School Graduate with a valid driver's license.
Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

(2) Househelper – Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese and Thai cuisines is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and babysitting. With a valid driver's license.

(1) Security Guard – Wide security experience in access systems, patrolling, investigative procedures, incident report writing, and customer service. At least two years' experience. Willing to work flexible time.

(1) Garbage Collector Supervisor – Experienced in supervising and coordinating activities of workers engaged in collecting garbage and other refuse and transporting to disposal plants or areas. With valid driving license. Hardworking and trustworthy. Willing to work flexible time.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. • Tel: (670) 235-7011

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY has openings for:

Three (3) Product Demonstrator
Minimum Qualification: One year experience as a product demonstrator.
Duties: Demonstrates and explains products to persuade customers to purchase products. Sets up and arranges displays or demonstration areas to attract the attention of prospective customers. Transports, assembles, and disassembles materials used presentations. Prepares or alters presentation contents to target specific audiences. Cooks products and gives samples to customers. Provides product information and suggests specific product purchases to meet customers' needs. Sells products being promoted and keeps records of sales. Restocks store shelves to replenish merchandise and follows up on deliveries. Performs other related duties.

One (1) Sales Consultant
Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree in Business Administration or related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two years' experience as a wholesale sales consultant or wholesale sales representative.
Duties: Make regular visits to current and prospective customers in order to explain and promote the quality and competitive costing of the company's wines, beers, spirits and other products to retail stores, restaurants, and hotels. Promote new products, cultivate customer relations and resolve/ensure customer satisfaction. Help sell company products through "bar night" promotions, including conduction wait staff training seminars and installing point of sale pieces on tables and bars. Participate in sales meetings and on-site employee training development programs to remain current on company's policies/procedures and industry trends/developments. Help prepare sales orders, collect payment, ensure orders are properly filled and coordinate on a weekly basis with customer/accounting department to ensure accounts remain in good standing. Assis in preparing sales reports on quota attainment results as required by Sales Manager. Aid customers with inventory management responsibilities (product availability/new product placement and rotation of stock). Recommend, create/design wine lists and wine by the glass programs utilizing full knowledge of company product portfolios. Perform other related duties and special projects as assigned.

In interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to wstcospn@pticom.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Accounting Clerk - At least 2 years' experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as, MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(1) Maintenance - At least a high school graduate with valid driver's license. Ability to efficiently use various power and hand tools. Knows how to follow oral and written instructions and can communicate efficiently and fluently in both written and oral form.

(1) Graphic Artist - Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. Minimum of 5 years' experience as a Graphic Artist. Proficient in Illustrator/Photoshop CS5.

(4) Screen Printer - At least 2 years' experience. Knowledgeable in screen printing equipment & machines. Able to work flexible hours.

(1) Multi-Task Graphic Designer/Screen Printer Operator - Must have Graphic Design Software skills and screen printing experience. Flexibility to work in various functions and to multi-task effectively.

Submit Applications To:
Saipan Apparel Printing, LLC. • Tel: 235-1680

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (1)

Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required of 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurants and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than July 30, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

TAGA
SPORTS
JULY - SEPTEMBER 2015
LET'S GO, GET DOWN, GET DIRTY
Q&A: THE 'FINA SISU MESTISU'
BE SMART ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS
KNOW YOUR FEDERATION: CANOE
VICTORIA CHENTSOVA'S LAST HURRAH
GENESIS CUP STRIVES FOR GODLY SPORTS BEHAVIOR
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EMPLOYMENT

1 Tour Coordinator: $6.05/hr. 3 years' experience required. Korean speaking and writing fluency required.

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SERVICES

Russian Translation Services. Good rates and high quality. Tel: (670) 989-3927. Email: leila.francisco88@gmail.com

Pacific Corporation SPN Auto Center
is looking for the following positions:

- **Mechanic** – with 5 years' work-related experience
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Ability to speak and write in English and Chinese preferred. Starting salary is $6.05/hour for all positions.

Interested applicants, please send resume to mao.autoshop@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 504991, Saipan MP 96950. For more information, please call (670) 285-0009

Job Vacancy Announcement

Mr. Juan L. Ada is currently seeking for

(2) Housekeeping

Interested applicants, please call Maria Ada at **234-5036**

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES, LLC.
Vacancy Announcement

1-General Manager
Salary $1800 - $2500 p/m. 2 years management experience. Professional Scuba Diving Instructor License preferred. Proficient in English & Japanese (reading, writing, speaking)

Interested U.S. applicants, may email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

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Saipan Community School
Is looking for

One (1) Math and Science Teacher

for our Jr. High students

He/She MUST have the following requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Education
- Teaching certificate and teaching Math & Science experience
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Share equal Christian Faith
- Must be willing to start immediately if hired

Bring your resume to SCS office in Susupe. No phone call please.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

LNH Apartments
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
$450/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft
Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
$500/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:

- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Coral Ocean Golf Resort
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Human Resources Manager
Salary Range: $11.37 to $13.46
Bachelor Degree Holder or equivalent. At least five years working experienced in Human Resources. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of human resources work and possess the highest degree of integrity and trustworthiness. Knowledge of EEO, FLSA, FMLA, and other applicable regulations. Knowledge of principles and procedure for personnel recruitment, selection, training, compensation and benefits, payroll system, labor relations, negotiations and personnel information system. Knowledgeable in processing various working permits and visas. Computer literate, has analytical and critical thinking skills and ability to influence others and be able to manage changes. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) Housekeeping Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least need anywhere for a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service including handling large group of arrival. Must have the ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. Willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms or duties assigned every day. Has the ability to extent flexibility that included bending, twisting and lifting. Computer literate. Able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess friendly and good manners. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Food & Beverage Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least two to three years working experience in related field and hotel industry. Must possess passion for quality and service excellence. Knowledgeable in principles, processes for providing customer and personal services, including customer needs assessment, meeting quality standard for services, evaluation of customer satisfaction. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environment health standards. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. Highly qualified in supervising restaurant point of sale, and must have the knowledge in supervising wait staff and peers. Must be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional language is an asset. Must be able to acquire Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays

(2) Golf Course Assistant Superintendent
Salary Range: $11.37 to $12.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least five or more years of work related experience in related field. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate of licensing as pesticide applicator. Computer literate. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for a long period of time and can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Accounting Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
Have at least 3 to 5 years work related experience in Hotel/Golf Course Industry or field auditing work. Have knowledge of economics and accounting principles and practices, A/P, A/R, G/L, bank analysis and reporting of financial data. Excellent in mathematical and communications skills. Ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners and right conducts. Knowledge in different accounting software application, must know how to operate Peachtree program and must be computer literate. Must be able to work under pressure, and meet deadlines. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Maintenance Supervisor
Salary Range: $7.00 to $8.55
At least three years of work related experience. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset. Knowledge in selecting, maintaining, and monitoring daily operations of power plant, generators, water pumps, plumbing, electrical, welding, heating, cooling, ventilation, furnishing, fixtures, painting, carpentry, troubleshooting, and mechanical equipment. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time. Computer literate and possess email communication skills. Knowledge in all safety and hazardous standard. Has the ability to exert flexibility that includes bending, twisting, and lifting at least 50lbs.Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Highly qualified in supervising subordinates and possesses leadership. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(10) Greenkeepers
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or Equivalent. At least three months of work related experience and knowledge in maintaining and monitoring daily operations of the golf courses greens. Requires advance knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices, handling chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides. Knowledge of safe, efficient mechanical equipment such as tractors, mowers, and driving other motorized equipment. Knowledge of diesel and gasoline equipment operations. Ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to follow oral and written directions. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for a prolonged period of time and capable of lifting at least 50lbs. Pesticide applicator license preferred, but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3) Bartender
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least one year working experience as a Bartender. Knowledge in different variety of cocktails, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all time. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages is preferred, but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customer. Computer literate. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings and holidays.

(3)Cook (International Cuisine)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experience. Culinary Degree Holder preferred, but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills; neat and well-groomed at all times. Able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production of International Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrées. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

(2) Front Desk Clerk (Golf)
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality program and be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time, a "People Person" and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma one equivalent. At least three months of work related experience. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Lifeguard
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least for a few months to a year of related work experienced. First Aide and SPR Certified, swimmer or a certified lifeguard. She /he must be familiar with the safe handling of pool chemicals and the process to dean and sanitize the area. Possess a friendly, good moral character and good communications skills. Fit to work under the sun and willing to work in flexible shifts, in all weather conditions, days, evening, weekends and holidays. Company may require swimming tests. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(2) Golf Course Starter
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months of related work experienced. Knowledge of principle and processes for providing excellent personal and guest service skills. Be able to speak other language but not required. Must be able to work under the sun. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and capable for lifting at least 50lbs. Must be able to acquire driver's license. Possess knowledgeable in the rules of golf game. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Food & Beverage Cashier (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least few months experienced in the related field. Experienced working in a restaurant navigating point of sale system is a plus. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals in the restaurant. Acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Computer literate. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, a "People Person", professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Must be able to speak and understand English language and fluent in Chinese language. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, weekends and holidays.

Front Desk Clerk (2-Korean Speaking, 2-Chinese Speaking, 2-Japanese Speaking)
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least six months to a year of related work experience in the hotel and golf course industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well-groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages is preferred but not required. Physically capable to lift at least 50lbs and have a valid CNMI driver's license, be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manners. Knowledge in the game of golf preferred but not required. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(9) General Maintenance
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.50
High School Diploma equivalent. One or more years of work related experienced. Engineering Degree or related courses is an asset but not required. Knowledge in keeping machines, mechanical equipment or other structure of an establishment in repair. Experience involving generators, water pumps, irrigation, deepwell, pipe fitting, insulating, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment, building repair that may include carpentry, plumbing, masonry and painting task. Must be able to work under the sun and can stand for prolonged period of time and physically can lift at least 50lbs. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) Accounting Clerk
Salary Range: $6.05 to $7.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least three months working experienced in the related field. Knowledge in mathematical and communication skills is preferred. Possess the ability to maintain highly confidential nature of accounting works and possess professionalism with good manners. Computer literate and email communication awareness. Must be able to work under pressure and has the ability to work as a team, possess typing skills and attention to detail. Must have a valid driver's license. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Room Division Manager
Salary Range : $11.37 to 13.46
Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality or Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in a hotel industry. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset. A "People Person". Must be able to stand for a prolonged period of time. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) Night Auditor
Salary Range : 8.55 to 10.50
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least two to three years working excperienced, graveyard schedule, night audit in the hotel industry. Excellent customer service skills. Speaking additional language like Japanese, Chinese and Korean language is an advantage. Knowledge in hotel system Fidelio or Opera is preferred but not required. Experienced handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Acquired hospitality related program is an asset but not required. A "People Person", be able to speak additional languages (Japanese, Chinese & Korean Language) is an advantage. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Golf Operation Manager
Salary Range : $11.37 to 13.46
Bachelor's Degree Business Management or equivalent. At least five years working excperience management level in the capacity of Manager in related operation. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer, personal services and interpret financial data like budgets and expense reports, requiring computer skills, mathematics, and basic accounting. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. Requires advanced knowledge of agronomy and turf grass management practices; a working knowledge of golf facility construction principles, practices and methods; and a thorough understanding of the rules and strategies of the game of golf. Requires excellent oral and written communication and knowledge in the game of golf. May require current certificate or licensing as pesticide applicator. Must be able to work under the sun, can stand for prolonged period of time and can lift at least 50lbs . Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send their resume/application for to hr.copspn@gmail.com or submit it to Coral Ocean Gold Resort, Human Resources Department not later than August 3, 2015 @ 1:00 pm. Include at least two recommendation letter. No phone calls please.

WORLD RESORT SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015 **POSITION: Lifeguard**
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015 **SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Six (6) positions are currently available for the lifeguard position.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015 **POSITION: Server**
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015 **SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015 **POSITION: Human Resources Clerk**
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015 **SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in human resources or administrative preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide support, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015 **POSITION: Cook**
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015 **SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two years of formal training/education in culinary arts required. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: July 29, 2015 **POSITION: Mechanic & Electrician**
CLOSE DATE: August 12, 2015 **SALARY: $6.05 - $6.55 per hour**

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available for the mechanic position. Two (2) positions are currently available for the electrician position.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce a vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Robert H. Hunter, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **August 14, 2015**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

A-Rod homers on 40th birthday in Yankees' 6-2 win at Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Alex Rodriguez homered on his 40th birthday, helping the New York Yankees beat the Texas Rangers 6-2 on Monday night.

Rodriguez's solo drive in the sixth off Matt Harrison (1-2) made him only the fourth player in major league history to homer both as a teenager and in his 40s, according to STATS, joining Ty Cobb, Rusty Staub and Gary Sheffield.

It was Rodriguez's 24th homer this season and 678th of his career, and it came two days after he went deep three times against Minnesota, in his previous game.

New York right-hander Ivan Nova (3-3) allowed two runs in five innings.

AP

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez celebrates his solo home run as he jogs back to the dugout in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Monday, July 27, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Cubs 9, Rockies 8

In Chicago, Kris Bryant's two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning lifted the Cubs to the win.

Colorado had taken an 8-7 lead in the top of the ninth on a two-run drive by Carlos Gonzalez for his second homer of the game. But Bryant drove the second pitch he saw from John Axford (3-4) over the wall in left-center to snap a three-game skid for Chicago.

Rafael Soriano (1-0) got the win.

Gonzalez had four hits and four RBIs for the Rockies. The slugger is batting .459 with 10 homers and 23 RBIs in his last 15 games.

White Sox 10, Red Sox 8

In Boston, Adam Eaton had three hits and two RBIs, and the White Sox earned their fifth consecutive win.

Eaton had a triple, double and single to key Chicago's 15-hit night. Matt Albers (1-0) got five outs for the win, and David Robertson pitched the ninth for his 22nd save.

Boston's David Ortiz homered for the third time in two games, hitting a two-run shot after a career-best, seven-RBI night that included two three-run homers in a win Sunday.

Mookie Betts added three hits and two RBIs for the Red Sox, who have dropped 10 of 12. Robbie Ross Jr. (0-1) got the loss.

Royals 9, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Eric Hosmer drove in four runs, Kendrys Morales added three RBIs and the Royals opened a 10-game road trip with a victory over the spiraling Indians.

Hosmer connected for a three-run homer in the first inning off rookie Cody Anderson (2-2) as the Royals rolled to their AL-leading 60th win and improved to 15-5 in their last 20 games.

Edinson Volquez (10-5) worked into the seventh inning for Kansas City, which will welcome newly acquired ace Johnny Cueto on Tuesday.

Rookie Francisco Lindor hit a three-run homer and Carlos Santana had a solo shot for the Indians, who have dropped five straight.

Cardinals 4, Reds 1

In St. Louis, Kolten Wong hit a grand slam, powering Lance Lynn and the Cardinals to the victory.

Wong connected on a 3-2 fastball from rookie Raisel Iglesias (1-3) with two outs in the fourth, putting St. Louis ahead 4-1. Wong's second career grand slam easily cleared the right- field wall, landing in the home bullpen.

The Cardinals have won six of seven and lead the NL Central by 6 1/2 games.

Lynn (8-5) allowed five hits in seven innings, improving to 7-3 against the Reds. Trevor Rosenthal earned his 31st save in 33 chances after getting two days off.

Jay Bruce hit a sacrifice fly for the Reds, who have lost seven of 10.

Orioles 2, Braves 1, 11 innings

In Baltimore, Matt Wieters homered leading off the 11th inning, sending Baltimore to its third straight victory.

Wieters hit a 1-0 pitch from Luis Avilan (2-4) over the wall in center. It was Wieters' fourth home run, and his teammates celebrated by dousing him with a bucket of water at the plate.

Brad Brach (4-2) worked the 11th for the Orioles, who hadn't won three in a row since late June.

Rookie Adonis Garcia homered for the Braves, who have dropped 11 of 15.

Rays 5, Tigers 2

In St. Petersburh, Fla., Curt Casali homered twice for Tampa Bay, and Nathan Karns took a one-hit shutout into the seventh inning.

Casali's first homer came on the first pitch of the third inning by Anibal Sanchez, who lost for the first time in nine starts since June 3. Casali added a towering two-run homer, his fifth of the season, off Bruce Rondon in the eighth.

Detroit lost for the seventh time in 10 games.

Consecutive doubles by Steven Souza Jr. and Kevin Kiermaier made it 2-0 in the fourth, and Logan Forsythe had a two-out RBI single off Sanchez (10-8) in the fifth.

Karns (6-5) gave up one run and three hits in six-plus innings, winning six days after a 1-0 victory at Philadelphia in which he hit a home run. Brad Boxberger pitched the ninth for his 25th save.

Diamondbacks 4, Mariners 3, 10 innings

In Seattle, Paul Goldschmidt hit his 22nd homer of the season in the first inning and scored the go-ahead run in the 10th on Jake Lamb's sacrifice fly as Arizona beat Seattle.

The Diamondbacks won their third straight despite blowing a 3-2 lead in the ninth inning. They took advantage of control issues by Seattle closer Carson Smith (1-4) in the 10th to regain the lead.

Andrew Chafin pitched the 10th for his second save, striking out Seth Smith for the final out with the tying run at second base.

Arizona was one out from winning in the ninth, but Mike Zunino lined an RBI single on a 0-2 pitch off reliever Oliver Perez (2-1) to score pinch-runner Chris Taylor with the tying run.

Giants 4, Brewers 2

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford hit a two-run homer to help rookie Chris Heston win his fifth consecutive decision, and San Francisco beat Milwaukee for its sixth straight victory.

Heston (11-5) allowed two runs and five hits over seven innings as the defending World Series champions moved a season-high 11 games over .500 with their seventh home victory in a row and 12th in 13 overall.

Milwaukee outfielder Carlos Gomez was ejected in the ninth after tossing his helmet following a replay reversal of what had been a stolen base. He later threw a batting glove.

Brewers manager Craig Counsell came out to argue and also got tossed, his first career ejection as a player or manager.

Source: Rockies trade Troy Tulowitzki to Blue Jays

DENVER (AP)—After all that speculation the past couple of years, the Colorado Rockies finally traded Troy Tulowitzki.

Surprising spot, too—north of the border to a team loaded with bats.

Tulowitzki was sent to the Toronto Blue Jays for Jose Reyes and three pitching prospects late Monday night in a stunning swap of star shortstops, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity early Tuesday because the deal had not yet been announced.

In addition to Tulowitzki, the Rockies sent 42-year-old reliever LaTroy Hawkins to the Blue Jays.

Along with Reyes, the Rockies picked up rookie reliever Miguel Castro and two minor league pitchers in a blockbuster transaction—the biggest yet in the days leading up to Friday's trade deadline.

FoxSports.com first reported the sides agreed to a swap involving Tulowitzki, Reyes and minor leaguers.

The talented but oft-injured Tulowitzki is a five-time All-Star who is hitting .300 with 12 homers and 53 RBIs in 87 games this season. He helped the Rockies reach the World Series as a rookie in 2007.

Tulowitzki was replaced on defense in the bottom of the ninth inning during Colorado's 9-8 loss to the Cubs in Chicago on Monday night. After the game, the slugger spent at least 30 minutes in manager Walt Weiss' office at Wrigley Field, but was unavailable to reporters.

The deal gives Toronto (50-50) another powerful, right-handed bat in a dangerous lineup that includes Jose Bautista, Josh Donaldson, Edwin Encarnacion and Russell Martin. The Blue Jays, by far the highest-scoring team in the majors, sit three games behind Minnesota in the race for the second AL wild card.

They are tied for second place in the AL East, seven games back of the New York Yankees. Toronto has not reached the playoffs since winning the 1993 World Series—the longest drought of any major league team.

Donaldson bid farewell to Reyes on his Twitter account: "Going to miss my boy. ... Once a brother always a brother."

Reyes is batting .285 with four homers, 34 RBIs and 16 steals in 69 games. He was acquired by Toronto in a November 2012 trade with Miami.

The face of Colorado's franchise, the 30-year-old Tulowitzki has spent his entire career with the Rockies (42-55) but has been the subject of trade talk for some time. Still, the Blue Jays seemed an unlikely destination.

"Tremendous player," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said in San Francisco. "Sometimes you're surprised when you have a guy like Tulo who's so iconic in Colorado."

Before the 2011 season, Colorado made a big commitment to Tulowitzki by agreeing to a contract that guaranteed him $132 million over seven seasons from 2014-20. The deal included a $14 million team option for 2021 with a $4 million buyout.

Combined with his previous deal, it meant the Rockies agreed to pay Tulowitzki $157.75 million over 10 years. The plan was to build around him and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez, who signed an $80 million, seven-year contract around the same time.

With the Tulowitzki trade, Gonzalez might be next—especially considering how hot he's been at the plate lately after an injury-riddled 2014 season.

The speedy Reyes is signed through 2017 on a $106 million, six-year contract he received from Miami.

A four-time All-Star with the New York Mets, Reyes also has struggled with injuries throughout his career.

Hawkins is 2-1 with a 3.63 ERA in 24 games and is headed to his 11th major league team.

There's no doubting the hitting prowess of the 6-foot-3 Tulowitzki. Staying healthy has been his biggest challenge. During his career, he's had stints on the disabled list for a quadriceps tendon tear, lacerated right hand, broken left wrist and a groin injury.

Last season, Tulowitzki played only 91 games before undergoing hip surgery.

This year, he's been injury-free, with Weiss resting him on occasion to save wear and tear. Tulowitzki was out of the lineup Sunday, which would've been his last appearance at Coors Field in a Rockies uniform.

Asked about Friday's non-waiver trade deadline before leaving town, Tulowitzki responded: "I don't worry about it. I've been through it multiple times. My job is to play for the Rockies. I signed up to play here for a long time. Until they tell me differently, which they haven't, I plan on being here."

Warriors trade David Lee to Boston for Wallace, Babb

AP

Boston Celtics basketball players, from left, Perry Jones, David Lee, Amir Johnson, Jae Crowder, and Jonas Jerebko, display team jerseys during a news conference at the NBA team's training facility Monday, July 27, 2015, in Waltham, Mass.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors have completed the trade sending two-time All-Star forward David Lee to the Boston Celtics for Gerald Wallace and Chris Babb, the teams said Monday.

They agreed to the trade July 7, but Boston needed time to sort out other moves in free agency before acquiring Lee.

"We are excited to welcome David as a member of the Celtics family," Celtics general manager Danny Ainge said in a statement. "His proven skill set and experience on a championship team will add valuable depth to our frontcourt and a veteran presence to our locker room."

Lee was an All-Star in 2010 with New York and 2013 with Golden State. But he injured his left hamstring in the final preseason game in October and his role diminished with the emergence of Draymond Green, the runner-up for defensive player of the year.

Lee played the fewest minutes of his career and averaged just 7.9 points per game last season for the NBA champion Warriors, who were looking to trade Lee to limit the team's luxury tax hit next season. Lee is due about $15.4 million in the final year of his contract, while Wallace is owed about $10 million next season.

"On behalf of the entire Golden State Warriors organization, we thank David Lee for his contributions both on and off the court over the last five years," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said. "Throughout his time with the Warriors, David was a great player, competitor and presence in our locker room as well as in the community and was a stabilizing force during a period that saw many positive changes within the organization. Most importantly, he leaves Golden State as an NBA champion. We wish him nothing but the best in the next chapter of his career."

The Warriors believe Wallace could fit in well in their versatile defense, where players routinely switch positions.

The 6-foot-7 forward, who was an All-Star in 2010 with Charlotte, played sparingly for the Celtics last season. Wallace averaged 1.1 points and 8.9 minutes in 32 games - both were career lows, as were his totals for the season of 11 assists, 57 rebounds and 286 minutes.

It's unclear if there's a role on the Warriors for Babb. He has played mostly for the Maine Red Claws of the NBA Development League the past two seasons.

Also on Monday, the Celtics announced that they have re-signed forward Jae Crowder, who averaged 9.5 points and 4.6 rebounds in 57 games after Boston acquired him from Dallas in December in the deal that sent Rajon Rondo to the Mavericks.

Wisconsin Assembly leader: New Bucks arena has votes to pass

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A $500 million plan for a new Milwaukee Bucks arena has enough votes to pass the state Assembly with help from Democrats, Republican Majority Leader Jim Steineke said Monday.

If approved without any changes by the Assembly, the bill would then head to Republican Gov. Scott Walker for his consideration.

Under the proposal up for a vote Tuesday, half of the $500 million cost would initially be paid by state and local taxpayers. That cost would increase to $400 million over 20 years when interest is added. The other $250 million would come from current and former Bucks owners. The deal also includes a $2 ticket surcharge on events at the current Bradley Center.

Walker, a presidential candidate, has been supportive of public financing to keep the Bucks in Milwaukee. The Senate passed the measure on a bipartisan 21-10 vote on July 15.

At least 30 Republicans plan to vote for the plan, along with about 15 Democrats, Steineke said.

"I think things are trending the right way," Steineke said.

Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca was more circumspect, saying after a closed-door meeting with fellow Democrats that he didn't know whether there would be enough votes to pass the measure.

"You have a lot of issues still floating out there," Barca said.

Typically 50 votes are needed to pass a bill, but about a dozen representatives are expected to be unable to attend Tuesday's session, Steineke said. That would lower the needed "yes" votes to around 45, depending on the number of lawmakers who are gone. Republican and Democratic Assembly leaders were going to meet Monday night, Steineke said.

He wasn't anticipating any changes to the bill. If there are, then the Senate would have to vote again.

"Obviously that makes life more difficult for everybody," Steineke said.

The Legislature has been trying to reach a deal to pay for a new arena for months. Republicans hold a majority of seats, but they need Democratic support for the bill because some in the GOP refused to have any taxpayer subsidy for a private arena, especially when funding is being cut for other public assets, including the University of Wisconsin.

Supporters argue the economic benefits outweigh the cost of losing the team and the income taxes paid by NBA players and staff. Bucks President Peter Feigin told the Legislature's budget committee earlier this month that if construction on a new arena doesn't begin this year, the NBA will move the team, possibly to Las Vegas or Seattle.

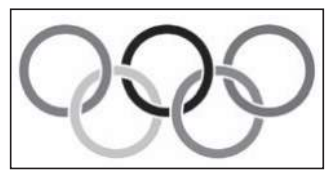
IOC urges US to come up with another bid city for 2024 Games

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—With Boston no longer in contention, IOC President Thomas Bach urged U.S. Olympic leaders on Tuesday to pick "the most appropriate city" as a substitute candidate for the 2024 Games. Two-time Olympic host Los Angeles could fit the bill perfectly, according to several IOC board members.

The U.S. Olympic Committee severed ties with Boston on Monday, finally pulling the plug on a bid that had been hampered by dismal poll ratings, strong local opposition and months of political wrangling.

The USOC now has until Sept. 15 to submit a candidate to the International Olympic Committee and formally enter a race that already includes Paris; Rome; Hamburg, Germany; and Budapest, Hungary. Toronto and Baku, Azerbaijan, are also likely contenders.

The IOC has been consulting with potential bids, including Boston, as part of a new "invitation phase'" for interested cities. The IOC is eager to have a strong candidate from the U.S., which hasn't hosted a Summer Games since Atlanta in 1996.



"For the IOC this was always about an American bid put forward by the United States Olympic Committee,'" Bach said in a statement. "This invitation phase is also an opportunity to determine which city will eventually be chosen by an NOC. We are confident that USOC will choose the most appropriate city for a strong U.S. bid."

IOC officials had just learned of Boston's withdrawal as they gathered for an executive board meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The rest of the IOC membership will be arriving later for a general assembly highlighted by Friday's vote to determine the host city for the 2022 Winter Olympics, with Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan, as the two candidates.

"It's always a shame when a national Olympic committee selects a city and then is incapable or unable to bring it to the next stage of the contest," IOC vice president Craig Reedie told The Associated Press. "But I suppose after mature reflection and looking at what's happened, it might be a wise decision."

"Personally, I hope the United States do find another candidate and produce another applicant city for 2024," Reedie said.

Boston had been chosen by the USOC as its bid entry ahead of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington. But the USOC was left with little choice but to drop Boston after Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker declined to commit to the bid.

Cavs trade Haywood, Miller to Blazers

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers have traded forward Mike Miller and center Brendan Haywood to the Portland Trail Blazers to create salary-cap room and save luxury-tax money.

The Cavs have been shopping Haywood's expiring $10.5 million contract for weeks and worked out a deal with the Blazers, who will also get two second-round picks from Cleveland. Both teams confirmed the trade on Monday.

The Blazers are expected to cut Haywood, who barely played for Cleveland last season. Miller was signed last summer, bringing playoff experience and 3-point shooting to the Cavs, but he was hardly used in the playoffs.

AP

These are 2014, file photos showing Cleveland Cavaliers NBA basketball players Brendan Haywood, left, and Mike Miller, right.

Haywood, a 13-year NBA veteran, has averaged 6.8 points and six rebounds during stints with Washington, Dallas, Charlotte and Cleveland.

Miller, a 15-year veteran, has averaged 11.3 points, 4.4 rebounds and 2.7 assists with stops in Orlando, Memphis, Minnesota, Washington, Miami and Cleveland.

The moves will allow the Cavs to create trade exceptions for $10.5 million and $2.85 million to sign players.

The Blazers were able to absorb the contracts of both players because the team is under the salary cap.

It is believed that Portland will waive Haywood before his contract becomes guaranteed on Saturday. Miller, whose $2.8 million salary next season is guaranteed, will reportedly seek a buyout and become a free agent.

Seau lawyer: family won't disrupt Hall of Fame ceremonies

CANTON, Ohio (AP)—The family of the late Junior Seau will not disrupt the Hall of Fame ceremonies on Aug. 8 despite its disagreement with a policy preventing live remarks during a posthumous induction.

Steve Strauss, legal counsel to the Seaus and partner at Cooley LLP, said in an email Monday night that the family "does not want this issue to become a distraction to Junior's accomplishments and legacy or those of the other inductees."

Seau, who took his own life in 2012, will be saluted with a video presentation in which his daughter, Sydney, will speak. But Hall policy does not allow for live speeches during a posthumous induction.

Sydney Seau admitted last week she was upset with not being allowed to give a speech.

"The Seau family appreciates the overwhelming support for Sydney Seau to be able to accept Junior's induction into the Hall of Fame live and in her own words," Strauss said. "Unfortunately, the Hall of Fame is unwilling to reverse its decision despite communicating to the family earlier this year that Sydney would be able to speak at the ceremony. Contrary to the most recent statement by the Hall of Fame, the family does not support the current policy that prevents family members from delivering live remarks on behalf of deceased inductees.

AP

In this Sept. 1, 2012, file photo, family members of Junior Seau including his mother Luisa Seau, far left, and his father Tiaina Seau, third from left, stand during a ceremony to honor the former Southern California player during the first half of an NCAA college football game between Hawaii and Southern California in Los Angeles.

"The Seau family never intended to use the Hall of Fame as a platform to discuss the serious mental health issues facing the NFL today, which are most appropriately addressed in a legal forum," Strauss said. "The Seau family looks forward to celebrating Junior's extraordinary accomplishments at the Hall of Fame."

Hall representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In a statement from Hall executive vice president Joe Horrigan last Friday, a 2010 policy was referenced.

"The policy of the Pro Football Hall of Fame since 2010 regarding individuals enshrined posthumously provides for an expanded presenting video (longer than the videos of living inductees) followed by the traditional unveiling of the bronzed bust and no additional comments made from the podium," Horrigan said.

The 2011 induction used such a format when former Los Angeles Rams star Les Richter was inducted posthumously.

Stable Steelers arrive in style for training camp

LATROBE, Pa. (AP)—Antonio Brown couldn't say no. How often does Rolls-Royce ask if you would like to ride to work in a $500,000 car?

So the All-Pro receiver for the Pittsburgh Steelers relaxed in the back seat on Saturday while his brother Desmond carefully maneuvered the Phantom—wrapped in a design replete with Brown's signature scrawled across the doors, the Steelers logo on the sideview mirrors and a pair of gold stripes running right down the middle from end to end—to the dorm at Saint Vincent College as the team reported for training camp.

It was a far cry from Brown's first summer as a pro in 2010, when he arrived in something more befitting a then-largely unknown sixth-round pick.

"I've come a long way from a Jeep Wrangler," he said with a laugh.

Brown's choice of transportation also brings to mind the team that issues his paycheck. Rolls-Royce's way of doing business hasn't changed much since the company was founded in 1904. Same for the Steelers, who value continuity perhaps more than any other team in the NFL.

This summer is the franchise's 50th at the small school about an hour southeast of Pittsburgh. The group that checked in on Saturday looks largely like the one that walked off the field following a wild-card loss to Baltimore in January.

For every significant departure—including Hall of Fame defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau and safety Troy Polamalu—there was a corresponding move that reinforced the core the Steelers believe can lead them to a seventh Super Bowl title in the near future.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger signed a lengthy contract extension in March. Defensive end Cameron Heyward inked a new deal last week. Pittsburgh locked down coach Mike Tomlin and general manager Kevin Colbert through 2018 in the final 48 hours before the doors at Saint Vincent opened.

"That's stability," guard Ramon Foster said.

And also validation from the Rooney family that the team is on the upswing following a pair of 8-8 seasons in 2012 and 2013 that evolved into a promising 2014 in which the Steelers went 11-5 and won the AFC North title behind an offense ranked second in the NFL.

"That's last year," center Maurkice Pouncey said. "I wish we could live in the past but we've got to go out and prove it again this year or (people) are going to talk bad about us."

There are issues Tomlin wants addressed before the season opener in New England on Sept. 10, including restoring some of the bite to a pass rush that has been fickle at best in recent years. One thing he won't have to worry about is Brown's commitment.

The 27-year-old showed up on time and happy despite concerns he would stay home and ask for a hefty raise after leading the NFL in receptions and yards receiving last season.

Rather than engage management in a staring contest, Brown—who has three years remaining on the $42.5 million deal he agreed to in 2012—made an entrance that could hardly be called understated. While his contract looks like one of the league's best bargains as he reaches his prime, Brown isn't in the mood to mar what he hopes will be a special year.

"Holdouts never go well," he said. "If you study history of guys who hold out, they always end bad. I'm in a blessed position. I make a lot of money. I pull up to camp in Rolls Royces."

Labor Day softball tourney sign up resumes

Baseball manager Froilan M. Camacho is reminding interested individuals to start forming a team in time for this year's Labor Day Softball Tournament, set at the Capital Hill ballfield from Sept. 4 to 6.

Camacho said teams should sign up early since the first 14 squads in the men's and four in the women's side will be accommodated.

Registration fee is $150 and teams are required to pay a 50 percent deposit to secure their slot. Aug. 14 is the final day of entry fee submission and there are no more refunds once the 50 percent deposit had been paid.

The weekend tournament will follow a double elimination round format where official rules of International Softball Federation and will be followed.

Trophy, cash, and other special prizes await the winning team.

For more information, call Camacho at 6642814 or email camacho_775@hotmail.com. ***(Jon Perez)***

DERBY

From Page 28

The *Emmanuel* also caught a 26.75-lb wahoo that was the third best for an additional $500 cash, a room stay at the PIC, and LET'S GO Tours gift certificates.

Overall, the *Emmanuel* collected $8,900 in cash prizes as James with Arriola and Camacho also won the side bet. Twenty-four boat captains participated in the side bet where $2,400 was the total cash prize pooled in.

In 2012, the *Emmanuel* needed almost three hours before subduing a record-breaking 942-lb. Pacific Blue Marlin to rule the tournament. That fish shattered the 938 lbs caught by *Ampas Boys* in 2000.

Before the *Ampas Boys*, captain Danny Agulto's *Love Boat* held the previous record of 624.34 lbs in 1997.

The *Aquaholics* of captain Tony Flores, and crew composed of Nobert Diaz and Luis Manibusan topped the billfish category with a 146-lb. catch that earned them $2,500 cash, an YCO gift basket, $50 gift certificate at Fishing Tackle, Mobil gas coupons, and I Love Saipan T-shirt.

The *Blu By U* of Dr. Hoa Nguyen came in second with their Billfish tipping the scales at 132.5lbs. He and his crew composed of Bao-Thanh Nguyen, Johnny Cruz, Joe Malicsi, and Kerry Cutting went home with $1,500 cash, one night stay at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mobil gas coupons, and an I Love Saipan T-shirt.

The three-member crew of the *Zeppelin*—composed of captain Steven Pixley, and anglers Jerry Ereso and Ben Lawrence—brought home the top Wahoo that weighed 31.0 lbs.

Their winning catch netted them $1,000 cash, an YCO gift basket, and $50 Fishing Tackle gift certificate.

The *Amazing Grace* of Tony Scragg, Com Coleman, Herman Guerrero, and John Guerrero came in second with 26.8 lbs. They received $500 cash, a room stay at the PIC, and LET'S GO Tours gift certificates.

The final results of the top three finishers in the Mahi and Skipjack fish categories were not yet available at press time.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

"Ekiden is pretty popular in Japan, especially among school groups that compete against each other," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We're interested to introduce the event here in the Northern Marianas and hope to see at least 100 off-island visitors participate alongside our local runners."

Mandatory orientation and race packet pick-up will be race day (Aug. 29) at 1:30pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. Each participant must pick up his or her own packet. This will also be the deadline to register.

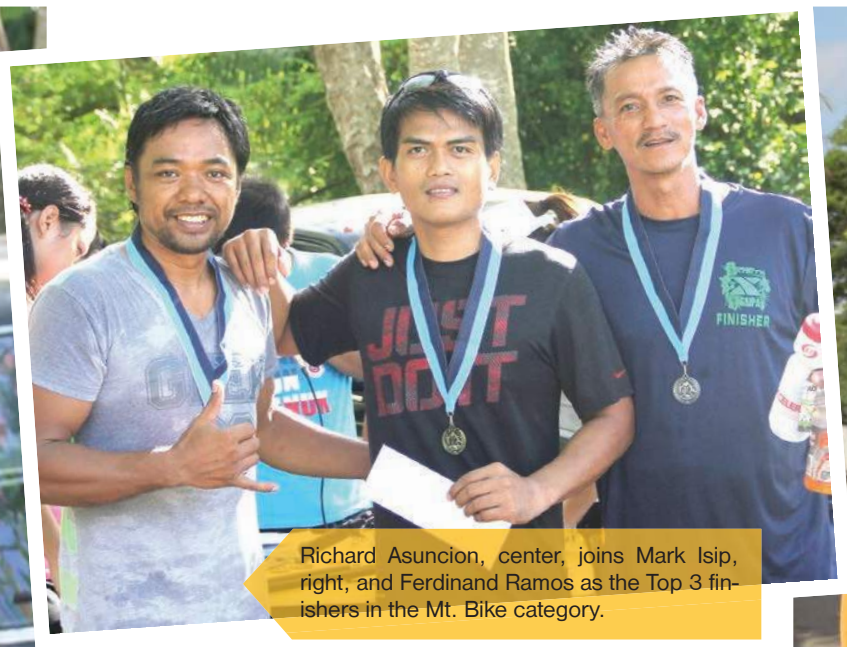
The registration fee for the Family category is $50/family. The registration fee for the Relay category for U.S. and CNMI residents is $15/each for runners 18 years and older and $10/each for runners under age 18. Registrations must present a valid U.S. or CNMI ID to qualify for the U.S./CNMI registration fee. The entry fee also includes entry to the awards banquet, a memorial towel, and a certificate of complete.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Ed Diaz at ediaz@mymarianas.comor 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

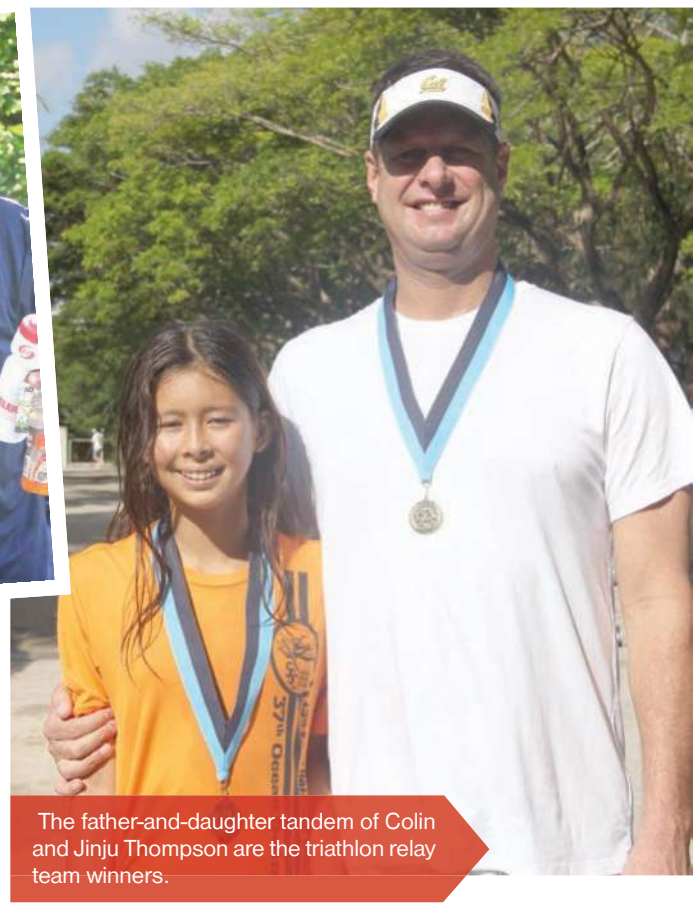
Road To Ironman Triathlon and Bike Race Winners

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Jay Diyco was the top rider in the mountain bike's 31 to 45 age group in the fundraising race held last July 18 at the Pau Pau Beach Park.

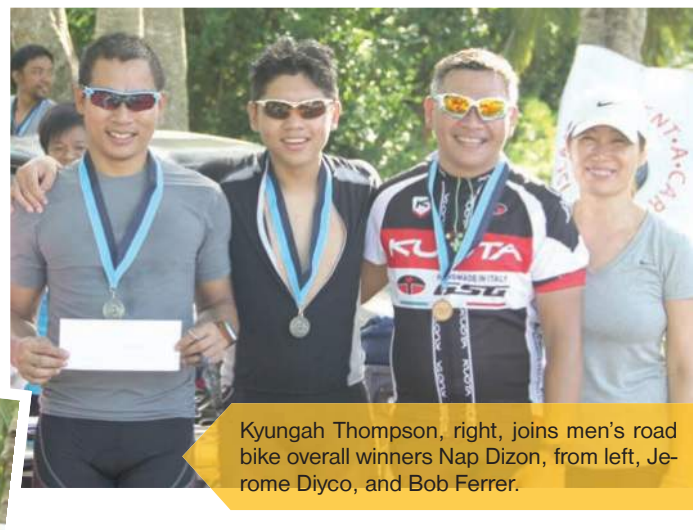


Richard Asuncion, center, joins Mark Isip, right, and Ferdinand Ramos as the Top 3 finishers in the Mt. Bike category.



The father-and-daughter tandem of Colin and Jinju Thompson are the triathlon relay team winners.

Team BRX members, from left, Rommel Buenaflor, Xander Khan, and Ben Tabin with race co-sponsor Kyungah Thompson.



Kyungah Thompson, right, joins men's road bike overall winners Nap Dizon, from left, Jerome Diyco, and Bob Ferrer.

Team Fishing Tackle members Jeanie Thompson, right, and Jeorge Bartolata. Not in photo is Daniel Marzan.

Triathlon individual male champion Florence Antonio, from second left, with David Boyer, Von Adrian B. Libayan, and Kyungah Thompson.

Female triathlon winners Kimiko McKagan, center, Tomomi Sato, left, and Mamiko Berger.

Rodney Catalla, left, and Vernice Ronda are the male and female mountain bike beginner champions.

Men's 36-over road bike top three finishers Dencio Bautista, from left, Ariel Garcia, and Cezar Fortaleza.

Joshua Berger, left, and Tiffany Lin of The Sloths.

A-Rod homers on 40th birthday in Yankees' 6-2 win at Rangers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Warriors trade David Lee to Boston for Wallace, Babb

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Emmanuel wins big in fishing derby

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Boat captain Mike James and his crew at the *Emmanuel* became the big winner of the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament, which was held over the weekend at the Smiling Cove Marina.

The official results of all the Top 3 finishers were announced in Monday night's awards banquet at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

James along with his two-person crew composed of anglers George Arriola and Christian Camacho reeled in a total of five billfish in the two-day tournament including the heaviest catch that earned for them the grand prize.

The *Emmanuel*'s grand-prize winning billfish tipped the scales at 234.5 lbs to clinch the $3,000 cash prize along with an 18-quart roaster oven from YCO, dinner for two at PIC's Magellan, Mobil gas coupons, and I Love Saipan T-shirts.

JON PEREZ

Emmanuel boat captain Mike James, second right, joins his anglers George Arriola, from left, and Chris Camacho, and Saipan Fishing Association president Gene Weaver after claiming the grand prize of the 31st Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the awards banquet last Monday night at the Pacific Islands Club.

They also took the total weight category with 297 lbs for another $2,000 cash and Mobil gas coupons.

The weight of the heaviest mahi, skipjack, and wahoo that the *Emmanuel* caught were added to their 234-lb billfish.

Another one of *Emmanuel*'s five billfish caught came in third with a weight of 129 lbs giving them an additional $1,000 cash, a buffet for two at the Kanoa Resort, and Mobil gas coupons.

See DERBY on Page 26

Saipan Tropical Ekiden Relay Race on Aug. 29

Toward the goal of attracting more visitors and expanding its sports tourism image, the Marianas Visitors Authority will host the Saipan Tropical Ekiden on Aug. 29, stretching its legs with the popular Japanese relay race.

"Ekiden" written in Japanese combines the characters for "station" (駅) and "transmit" (伝). The term originally referred to a horse or stagecoach that transmitted communication by stages.

The inaugural Saipan Tropical Ekiden will introduce two categories: Family Run and 4-Hour Relay Marathon. Under the Family Run category, a family of up to five runs a full 2K course together. Under the Relay Marathon category, a team of two to 10 members (including at least one adult) runs a full marathon, switching off every 2K.

The race will be held beginning in the late afternoon, starting at 4pm at Garapan Fishing Base. The first two hours will be run along Beach Road through downtown Garapan. Around sunset at 6pm, the course will shift to Saipan Beach Pathway.

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Meet the Senior All-Stars outfielders

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of a three-part series

The CNMI outfielders composed of Joaquin Jose Chong at centerfield, Franklin Jay Lizama at left field, and Aurel Joe Mendiola at right field face a daunting task of keeping the ball in play against their opponent's heavy hitters.

Chong, Lizama, and Mendiola are members of the CNMI All-Stars squad that clinched a berth to the Senior League World Series in Bangor, Maine after topping the Asia-Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament early this month.

Anthony Joseph Agulto, Craig Michael Aguon, John Richard Paul Atalig Jr., Ethan Franklin Babauta, Nathan Paul Camacho, Henry Jesus Lizama, Franko T. Nakamura, Brandon Win Pua, Jobe Anton Reyes, Lorenzo Lee Sebaklim, Robin Virgil Secharmidal, and Roke T. Tenorio are the other members of the team.

The Kagman III resident Chong, this season's Saipan Senior League's finals most valuable player, said he hopes that the positive vibes that they shared during the regional tournament would carry over to the Shawn T. Mansfield Stadium in Bangor.

"Hopefully, we bring all our good efforts and positive vibes during the regionals to the World Series," said Chong, who is aiming to continue playing baseball in college.

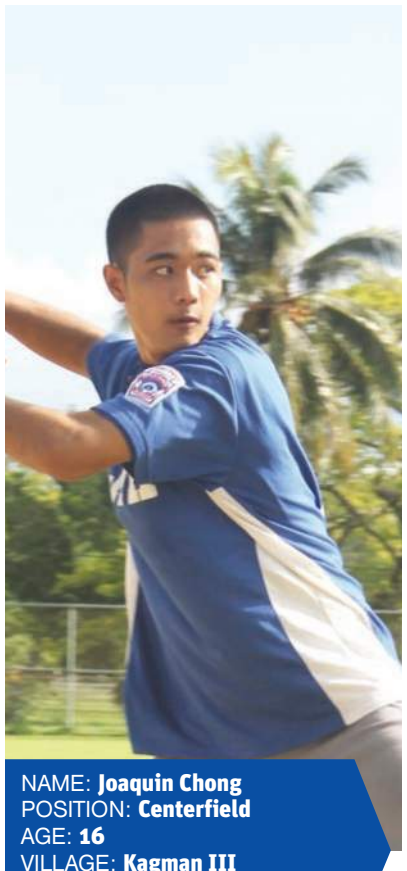
The 16-year-old Lizama, meanwhile, said that he would do his best in getting on base and driving in runs when they open up their World Series campaign against Europe-Africa representatives Lazio Little League of Lazio, Italy on Aug. 2.

"I know that one of my strengths is my fielding and throwing skills. But the area that I need to improve on is my batting and pitching. I must learn how to read the pitches of opposing pitchers," added the Saipan Southern High School student, who also plays at third base.

Chong and Lizama, in the last Saipan Senior League season, were part of the Enforcers team that scored a 4-2 win over the Red Sox.

Lizama, in the regular season, also belted three home runs along with Comets teammates Nakamura and Anthony Ilo.

Mendiola, who plans to enter the police force, said that he would also like to contribute his hitting like Chong and Lizama.



NAME: **Joaquin Chong**
POSITION: **Centerfield**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Kagman III**
BASEBALL TEAM: **NY Yankees**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Derek Jeter**

NAME: **Aurel Mendiola**
POSITION: **Right field**
AGE: **15**
VILLAGE: **Dandan**
BASEBALL TEAM: **NY Yankees**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Derek Jeter**

NAME: **Franklin Lizama**
POSITION: **Left field**
AGE: **16**
VILLAGE: **Koblerville**
BASEBALL TEAM: **LA Angels**
FAVORITE PLAYER: **Mike Trout**